April 10th—16th, 1986, No. 14 75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

WRECK FISHING

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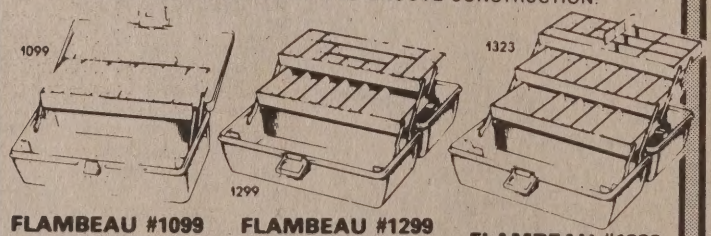

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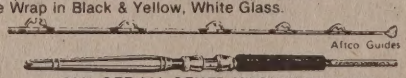

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Colors: Yellow, Olive

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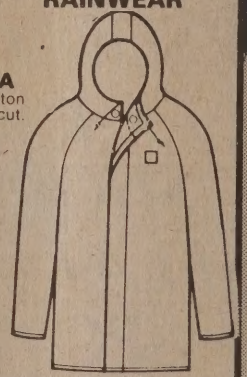
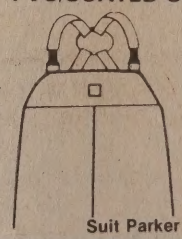


PVC/COATED COTTON BIB PANT



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THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 21, Number 14 April 10th, 1986

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ABOUT THE COVER:

A host of inshore and offshore gamesters seek shelter among the rotting hulks of wrecks. The structure loving blackfish is a prime example. If you would like to learn more about this specialized fishing, see John Raguso's article, Wreck Fishing Primer, on page 32. Dick Mermon Photo.

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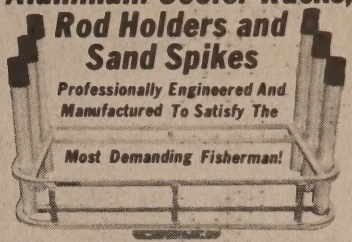

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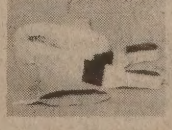

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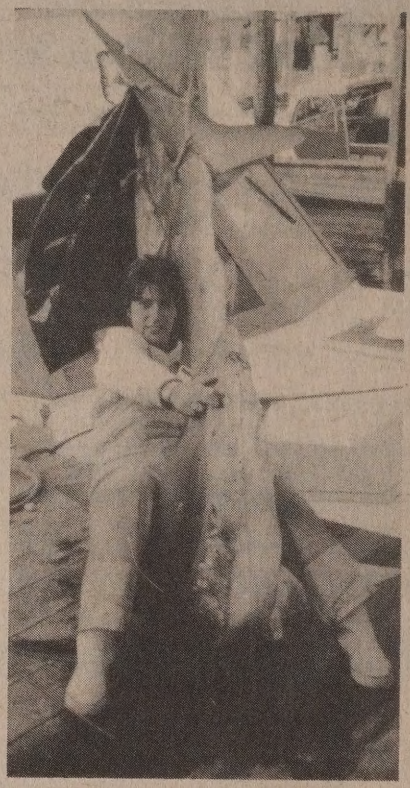


IN MEMORY OF CATHY NICHOLS

Cathy Nichols was a fisherman. She strove to become one through her ten years of working as a deckhand, cook and stewardess on various yachts in Florida. Her intense desire made her a quick learner as a mate trainee on the "Mako Express" in 1985. By summer's end she was an accomplished and important part of the team, having wired big makos, gaffed tuna and even gone overboard to save the day by freeing a fouled wheel.

But this was not enough. She also wanted to learn about commercial fishing and so spent a hard winter off the Virginia Coast on the dragger "Ocean Spirit" with Captain Terry Miles.

She returned to Montauk on Friday, the 28th and was faced with the happiest prospect of her life. She was going to sport fish as mate on the "Mako Express" weekdays and drag on the "Ocean Spirit" on weekends.

She loved fishing of any kind more than anyone I have ever known. On March 30th, she fell overboard during the night at dockside, and drowned. Anyone who knew this incredible woman knew she had a heart too big to fit in her body. Helping people was her preoccupation.

At 31 years of age she was taken from us all, but no one here will miss her more than the two men who loved her most in life, her captains, Zac Grossman and Terry Miles. May her soul forever be at peace. **Captains Zac and Terry.**

CORRECTION ON CAPTREE SEA FEST

The article "Common Ground for Beach Access," appearing in The Fisherman, April 3rd #13 edition, reported that Common Shores would have a display booth at the Captree SeaFest on April 26th and 27th. Common Shores will not be at the SeaFest but are holding a fence mending project on May 3rd. Anyone interested in lending a hand, should be at the Captree Refreshment Stand at 8AM.

NEW TROLL MOTOR SYSTEMS CAN DAMAGE SONAR UNITS

Extensive interference and possible damage to sonar equipment can result through the use of newly-introduced trolling motor control systems, Lowrance Electronics, Inc., officials have announced.

The new systems are being offered by at least three manufacturers, Lowrance officials said, and others have announced plans to use them in the future.

Darrell Lowrance, president of the firm, said the new units incorporate speed controls based on pulse modulation of direct current.

"These units emit an abnormal amount of RFI (radio frequency interference)," he said. "This radiation can affect and possibly damage all types of depthfinders."

Lowrance said his company has conducted extensive tests using all leading brands of depthfinders, including new liquid crystal display units, flashers and straight line graphs, and two trolling motors incorporating the new speed control systems.

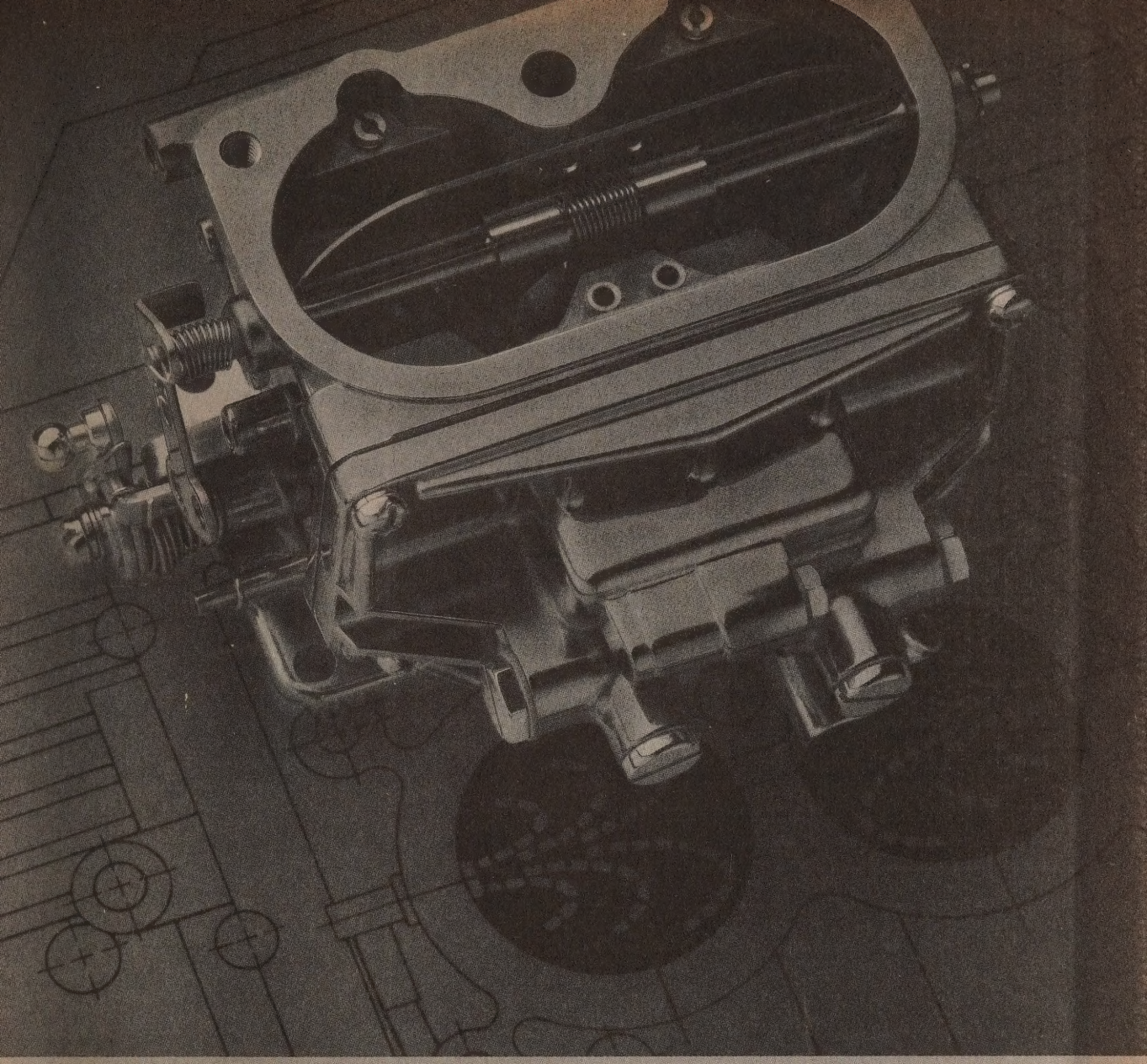
"All sonor units located within the immediate vicinity of a motor utilizing the new system can be affected," he said.

"It is a serious problem. We are informing our customers that warranties on our depthfinders will be voided if damaged by use of one of the new speed control units.

"We have also contacted all the trolling motor manufacturers using this speed control system, to let them know of our concern. Our test results are being made available to them," he said.

"In addition, we have contacted all the major sonar manufacturers, our distributors and dealers, and boat manufacturers to inform them of the problem," he added.

The tests reveal that trolling motors with the new speed control systems will "black out" new liquid crystal display graphs and recorders which are



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Some other manufacturers have tacked on so-called oil-injection systems to old engine designs. So oil passes through the carburetor. Others have really stretched the definition of oil injection to include gas/oil pre-mixers.

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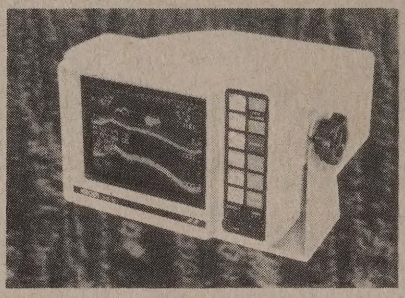

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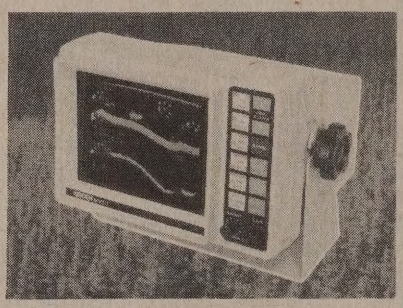

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- By using optional Triducer together, ship's speed, mileage and water temperature can be digitally displayed.
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capable of showing fish; cause extensive interference lines on straight line graphs, and completely "light up" the dials on flasher units, when both are used at the same time.

"When the two units are near each other, and the troll motor is used for a length of time, extensive damage can occur to the depthfinder," Lowrance said.

"All electrical devices put out some RFI," he added. "The secret is to make them so they conform to acceptable standards."

PORT OF EGYPT OPEN HOUSE

Port of Egypt Marine has announced their Annual Spring Open House. There will be a good selection of new Grady-Whites, Imperials and Privateers in the water and available for test runs. In addition, there will be a big selection of both new and used boats on land.

"We always look forward to the Spring Open House," said Bill Lieblein, the firm's General Manager, "it is a sure sign that spring is really here."

This year's dates are April 12th and 13th. The Port of Egypt is located on the Main Road in Southold.

FISHING ACCESSORY HELPS HANDICAPPED

Philip Batick does not let his handicap keep him from the sport he loves: fishing.

The Thomaston, CT native is the inventor of the Batick Bracket, an aid for handicapped anglers. The device, which makes handling and using a rod/reel easier for individuals with limited use of their hands, is manufactured and distributed by Zebco/MotorGuide in Tulsa, OK.

Fishing since he was six, the 39-year-old Batick thought those days might be over when he suffered a broken neck in a car accident in 1972. The injury resulted in 13 operations and lying in a hospital bed for almost three years.

"I had a lot of time to read all the fishing magazines, and I really got interested in some of these fishing derbies and tournaments," remembers Batick. "I was determined to fish again, but I knew I would have to alter my equipment because of my injuries."

As a quadriplegic, Batick needed some modifications for his tackle if he were to fish again. In searching the marketplace, he found few attachments that enable a handicapped person to cast with authority.

"I decided that I could invent a bracket better than anything on the market," Batick said, "so I made up some drawings and gave them to my father to build. After a couple of tries, we came up with a bracket that really works. Then I contacted Zebco. They decided to produce the bracket using contracted assembly work from a handicapped employee workshop in Tulsa, and to distribute the bracket."

The bracket is glass-reinforced

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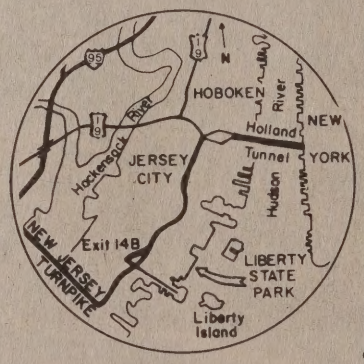
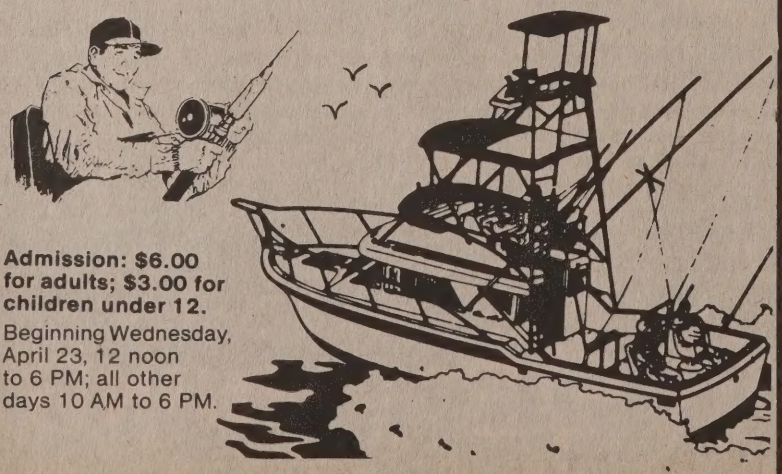
There will be demonstrations, seminars and tips from fishing and boating experts. See the complete range of boats for every budget. Learn the best spots for catching trout, salmon, pickerel and others.

And if you get hungry or thirsty, there are refreshments on hand throughout the show, plus a spectacular Seafood Festival at the new Harborlights Restaurant.

Plan for a great day — April 23-27. We're just 10 minutes from New York City. If you're driving, just follow the N.J. Turnpike to exit 14B, and you'll be there.

Free parking for 7,500 cars.





Admission: $6.00 for adults; $3.00 for children under 12.

Beginning Wednesday, April 23, 12 noon to 6 PM; all other days 10 AM to 6 PM.

polyester with tension springs on each end. It fits all long-handled spinning and casting rods. The angler slips his hand through the bracket, then tightens it to fit snugly. High quality foam pads protect against rubbing or chafing. The bracket can be used on either side of the rod for left or right hand retrieve and weighs less than six ounces.

"We feel Phil's bracket will enable many people to enjoy fishing who otherwise would have a tough time," comments project manager Jim Hubbard of Zebco/MotorGuide. "The bracket is simple but functional. Since the manufacturing costs are not high, we are making a few thousand brackets available to qualified, handicapped individuals, charging only a $2 handling fee for each.'

The Batick Bracket is available by contacting Zebco/MotorGuide, Attn: Jim Hubbard, P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, OK 74101.

HADDOCK AND COD SUPPLY ON THE INCREASE

Large numbers of young of two major New England seafood species, haddock and cod, are appearing on Georges Bank. These young haddock and cod were spawned this past spring on the Bank, the Northeast's richest fishing ground, and comprise the 1985 "year class" of each species.

Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Northeast Fisheries Center in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, notes that "in recent years the commercial catch of haddock and cod has decreased and the retail price, especially of haddock, has correspondingly increased.' He feels that "these 1985 year class fish ultimately will boost commercial catches and could moderate retail prices."

If the New England Fishery Management Council, which manages the Georges Bank fisheries, places—as expected—a 17 or 19 inch size limit on haddock and cod, then the 1985 year classes of Georges Bank haddock and cod will not grow enough to attain a legal size until late 1987 or early 1988. Peterson is concerned, however, that "haddock and cod from the 1985 year classes will nonetheless begin showing up in fishermen's nets later this year occasionally at 9 inches and consistently at 12 inches, well under the Council's proposed size limits." All undersized fish would have to be discarded at sea.

Peterson notes that "many discarded fish would die as a result of being caught and thus fail to reach a legal or 'landable' size. This potential loss to the legal-size population of haddock and cod could dampen any improvement in landings for fishermen and in retail prices for consumers."

He added that "the cooperation of fishermen in adhering to the Council's fishing regulations—all designed to reduce the mortality of undersized fish—and in avoiding fish-

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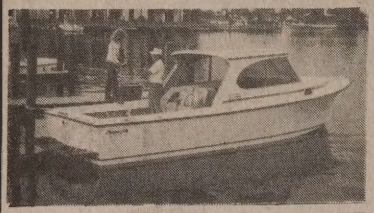
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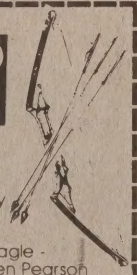
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ing among concentrations of undersized fish, could be the key to restoring the Northeast's haddock and cod fisheries."

Scientists with the Northeast Fisheries Center first detected the strong 1985 year classes of these species on Georges Bank during an August research vessel cruise to the Bank to test juvenile fish sampling gear and methods. Center scientists later indexed the strength of these year classes based on the October portion of the Center's annual autumn survey of fish distribution and abundance on the continental shelf from Nova Scotia to North Carolina. This series of autumn surveys, begun in 1963, is the only method for forecasting year class strength well before the young fish have grown large enough to begin showing up in fishermen's nets.

The Center's parent agency, NMFS, is part of the U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and has stewardship responsibilities for the nation's marine fisheries resources.

Recent Catches: The 1984 catch of Georges Bank haddock by American fishermen—19 million pounds—was the same as the 1983 catch, but down from a 1981 catch of 42 million pounds and a 1982 catch of 28 million pounds. Fishermen received about $13 million for their 1984 catches of haddock from Georges Bank. Based on preliminary data, the 1985 American catch of Georges Bank haddock is expected to drop by 50 percent to a little over nine million pounds.

The 1984 catch of Georges Bank cod by American fishermen, 73 million pounds, was down from the record 1980 catch of 88 million pounds and the 1983 catch of 81 million pounds. Fishermen received more than $27 million for their 1984 catches of cod from Georges Bank. Based on preliminary data, the 1985 American catch of Georges Bank cod is expected to be the lowest in seven years at about 63 million pounds.

Size of Increase: For haddock, the Center's survey yielded the third highest numbers of young fish (i.e., those hatched within the year) since the surveys began in 1963. Only the numbers of young fish from the 1963 and 1975 year classes were higher.

When fish from the huge 1963 year class of Georges Bank haddock reached a catchable or "recruited" size in 1965, they fueled the foreign overfishing of Georges Bank from which the haddock population has never fully recovered. When the 1975 year class of haddock recruited to the fishery in 1977 (just as the U.S. 200 mile limit took effect), it aided the resurgence of the New England fishing industry.

Peterson noted that "although the size of the 1985 year class of Georges Bank haddock is far below the size of the 1963 year class, it appears to be between the size of the 1975 and 1978 year classes—the only two year classes to contribute significant numbers of fish to the Georges Bank haddock fishery in the past two decades."

In actual numbers, the 1975 year class of Georges Bank haddock produced 83 million two-year-old fish (the age at which haddock begin to recruit to the fishery); the 1978 year class produced 62 million. The 1985 year class production should be between these two values.

For cod, the Center's survey yielded the second highest number of young fish since the surveys began. Only the number of young fish in 1975 exceeded the number in 1985. Based on the survey values, the 1985 year class should rejuvenate the sagging cod catch by late 1987 or early 1988.

Managing the Increase: The New England Fishery Management Council, created by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act to manage the fisheries resources of Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, and Southern New England, is developing a new management plan for haddock, cod, and other demersal finfish.

For haddock and cod, the plan would set a 17 inch size limit the first year of the plan, then a 19 inch limit the second year. Although the plan's gear restrictions are designed to reduce the catch of undersize fish, many 1985 year class haddock and cod would still be vulnerable to being caught before they attain legal size.

Peterson concluded that "it will be difficult for the Council's managers to control the catch of undersized fish without the cooperation of fishermen. Such cooperation is essential, though, because those haddock and cod which do survive beyond the future 19 inch legal size limit (a size at which most have also matured) will form the bulk of the spawning stocks that will, in turn, produce much of the future supply of haddock and cod. For haddock, in particular, the spawning stock in recent years has been so low that the probability of producing a strong year class has also been very low."

BABYLON TUNA CLUB AWARDS DINNER

The Babylon Tuna Club held their annual awards dinner on March 8th at the La Grange Restaurant, to honor those anglers catching the largest fish of a particular species. The outstanding catches from local waters were: false albacore, 12.9 by Charlie Saladino; true albacore, 52.6, Charlie Saladino; bluefish, 21 lbs., Doc Grell; codfish, 40.6, Walter Krawczyk; blackfish, 10.9, Walter Kraqczyk; bonito of 8.12, Ken Darnay; flounder, 2.6, Pete Nowinski; fluke, 6.15, Lou Sauer,; white marlin, 90 lbs., Bob Sgarlato; mako, 285 lbs., John Raguso; shark, 630 lbs., George Ash; striped bass, 61.8, Paul Kraus; tuna trolled (yellowfin), 98 lbs., Frank Huges; tuna chummed, 115 lbs., Paul Krause; tuna trolled (bigeye), 205 lbs., Steve Pace, Sr.; weakfish, 17.3 (world record), Al Lorenzetti, Jr.; pollack, 23.12, Pete Nowinski; and an

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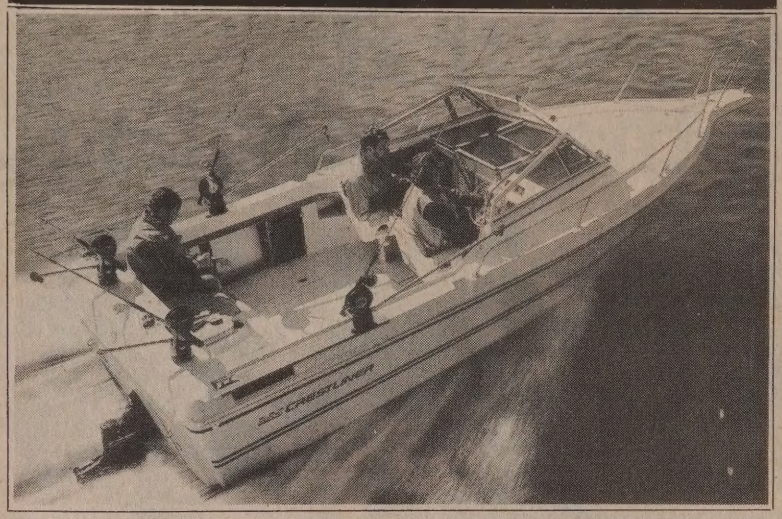

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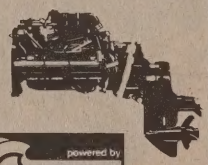

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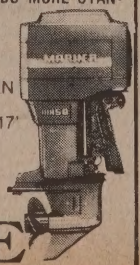

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In addition, Shakespeare Fishing, Inc., has donated $2500 in equipment and $1000 in prizes will be given for the largest shark caught on Sigma line, the official line of the Hudson Anglers' Tournament.

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For further information concerning the rules, free dockage and registration, call Ronnie Bauer, (516) 867-9608, (516) 378-1557, or Joe Sangster, (516) 437-3071, or Paul Giongreco, (718) 224-9579.

COUNCILS RESUBMIT AMENDED SWORDFISH PLAN

The Regional Councils have toughened their resolve and decided to go to the mat with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) over the Atlantic swordfish plan. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, on behalf of all five councils involved in developing management measures for the overexploited swordfish, has resubmitted an amended fishery management plan to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. It contains most of the provisions rejected by the Commerce Department last year, measures which the Councils consider vital to the future health of the Atlantic stocks, but with stronger rationale and documentation.

The fishery management plan that went into force last fall established a system of variable season closures designed to shut down the fishery during certain periods in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. The closures are designed to reduce the harvest of young swordfish needed to rebuilt the depleted populations while maximizing the value of the commercial fishery by concentrating effort on larger fish. Nearly all of the additional measures proposed by the Councils in the original plan affecting the foreign and domestic fisheries were disapproved.

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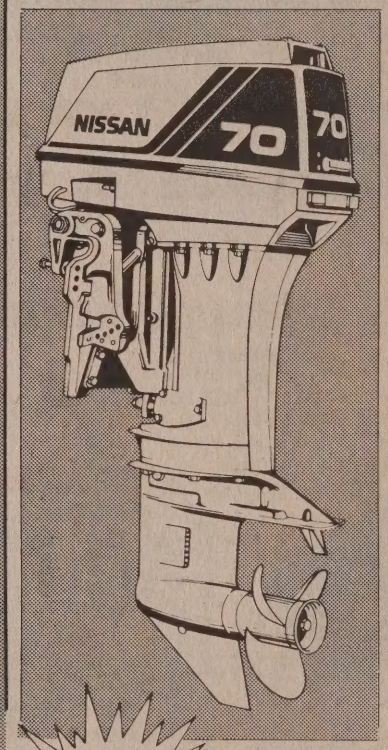

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take a firm stand against drift entanglement nets. Where the current fishery management plan allows the limited use of drift nets on an experimental basis, the amended plan would prohibit their use and possession in the swordfish fishery altogether. In reaching this decision, the Councils cited both the overwhelming evidence of the destructive nature of the nets and the inability of NMFS to monitor the use of the nets now in the water, primarily due to obstruction by the vessel operators themselves. As one member pointed out, "They [the driftnetters] were given the opportunity to prove that the gear was not detrimental, and then turned around and obstructed that process."

Among the foreign measures resubmitted is a ban on the importation of swordfish into the United States during the domestic closures. This is meant to limit the foreign harvest of swordfish in the western Atlantic Ocean and the subsequent sale of these fish in the U.S., thus assuring that the benefits gained through reduced U.S. catches will not be counterbalanced by fish caught from the same stock by foreign fishermen.

The Councils also reaffirmed a prohibition on nighttime longlining during the closures which is intended to reduce the by-catch of swordfish in the tuna fisheries. Swordfish are almost exclusively hooked at night. The Councils refuted objections from the State Department that this would deprive foreign fishermen, the Japanese in particular, of a 'reasonable opportunity' to catch tuna in U.S. waters, declaring that, among other things, adjustments in the length of longlines used could enable the Japanese to fish daylight hours only instead of around the clock as they do now. They also insisted they could not justify restricting the activities of American fishermen without restricting foreign fishermen, too.

Rounding out the foreign measures, the retention of swordfish by longliners and squid trawls during closures was forbidden and a cap was placed on the incidental catch of swordfish. The foreign longline fishery, for instance, would be closed once the by-catch reached 1,100 swordfish. Though the foreign by-catch has reportedly been much lower in recent years, this cap would serve as a trigger mechanism to guard against a potentially destructive return to the unacceptable by-catches of 1982 and earlier.

The resubmitted plan is far from perfect, but does address the key issue of limiting the amount of gear in the water, giving the disastrously overfished swordfish a respite from unrelenting fishing pressure. The ball is now back in the court of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Councils have spoken, and what they are saying is that how NMFS and the State Department choose to advise the Secretary of Commerce, and nothing else, will determine the fate of the Atlantic swordfish plan.

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ELECTRO ALERT · Weatheralert Radio	$34.95	$22.95
RAY JEFF 350 Hailer	$199.95	$99.95
REGENCY MS 5000 Stereo	$499.99	$279.95
" MS 3000 Stereo	$349.00	$199.95
SMR SS 50 Stereo	$299.00	$169.95
SHAKESPEARE 5206N 6db VHF ant.	$45.95	$24.95
" 5204-8 CB/VHF Combo	$144.95	$79.95
" 4208 Loran Whip	$22.95	$12.95
" 4186-U Nylon Rachet	$17.95	$8.98
" 5203-SSC S/S Sailboat Ant	$69.95	$39.95
TCL-S10802B S/S Ratchet	$48.75	$29.95
UNIDEN SH40 CB	$189.95	$99.95
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"	34442-0000 12" Fender	$77.95	$46.95
"	34446-0000 6" Fender	$22.95	$13.75
"	34448-0000 8" Fender	$33.95	$19.98
NORFLOAT	IF0625 6" Fender	$27.55	$12.98
"	IF0830 8" Fender	$40.55	$19.50
"	IF1027 10" Fender	$46.00	$21.98
TAYLOR	1020 - 3½ x 13 Fender	$6.55	$2.99
"	1021 - 4½ - 16 Fender	$8.55	$3.99
"	1022 - 5½ x 20 Fender	$11.95	$5.49
"	1023 - 6½ x 23 Fender	$18.85	$8.99
"	1024 - 10½ x 30 Fender	$46.45	$21.98
"	1028 - 8½ x 27 Fender	$32.55	$15.98

TAYLOR 2-FENDER RACK		TAYLOR 3-FENDER RACK	
2007 - 7"	$59.95 $32.98	3007 - 7"	$89.95 $49.50
2009 - 9"	$69.95 $38.50	3009 - 9"	$99.95 $54.98
2011 - 11"	$79.95 $43.98	3011 - 11"	$119.99 $65.98

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AFI	60624 6-Rod Rack	$58.95	$29.48
"	60633 Fillet Board	$119.95	$59.95
DYTEK	500 2" Sea Temperature	$199.00	$124.29
"	1000 3" Sea Temperature	$269.00	$169.95
JET AER	7002 Folding Knive	$24.98	$9.95
"	2058 Fillet Knife	$11.50	$6.99
PERKO	1118DP Clamp-On Rod Holder	$48.00	$29.95
"	1205DP Chrome Flush Rod Holder	$18.50	$9.95
"	4520 S/S Flush Rod Holder	$28.75	$17.95
"	1314/460/469 Outrigger Set	$158.95	$87.95
"	445-1/1098-18 Outrigger Set	$607.00	$359.95
	S/S Rod Holder · Slip Mount	$39.95	$11.95

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LUBRIMATIC · 11568CS Case of 12-50:1 Outboard Oil	$22.44	$8.49
TEMPO G6 · 6 Gal. Plastic Tank	$28.00	$11.98
" TPC6 · 6 gal. Metal Tank	$49.95	$25.95
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BOATMENS	6218S · White, Blue, Sand 18" Laydown Seat	$248.29	$119.95
GARELICK	48162 AP & W Folding Chair	$140.00	$79.98
"	48270A Economy Seat	$65.00	$38.98
"	48265S Soft Seat	$90.00	$53.98
"	48266S Soft Seat w/Arms	$127.00	$75.98
"	75035 Pedestal 12-18" Adj.	$66.00	$39.95
TELESCOPE	7719 Aluminum Chair	$55.00	$29.95
"	1160 Varnished Chair	$49.00	$29.95
"	#50 White Chair	$67.00	$39.95
"	1990 Mahogany Chair	$111.00	$64.95
"	1962 Deluxe Varnished Chair	$86.00	$49.95
TODD	500 Molded Chair	$191.50	$119.95
"	1000 Molded Chair	$234.00	$159.95

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INTERLUX Bottom Paints	50% OFF
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"	Pressure System	$79.95	$49.95
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Rule 20 800 GHP Bilge Pump		$35.00	$16.49
Rule 25 450 GHP Bilge Pump		$27.00	$8.95
Rule 35 Float Switch		$24.00	$12.95
WILCOX 7000R-1 Hi-Cap Pump		$83.85	$44.95

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Signaltone 12320 Shorty Horn		$40.00	$21.95
"	13440 Single Trumpet Horn	$57.56	$29.95

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GOTT	19909 · 172 qt. Cooler	$394.90	$199.95
"	19849 · 120 qt. Cooler	$241.90	$99.95
IGLOO	8001 - 151 qt. Cooler	$292.99	$139.95
"	860-046 · 86 qt. Cooler	$116.49	$59.95
"	686-046 · 68 qt. Cooler	$79.49	$41.95
"	60-046 · 48 qt. Cooler	$48.99	$24.99

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"	750 Speed Tach.	$212.50	$99.95
STEWART WARNER 15017 Hobbs Hourmeter		$54.10	$26.98

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WITH	812	$455.00	$227.50
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"	RLB 20 Aircraft EPIRB	$325.00 $159.95
"	RLB 17 VHF EPIRB	$299.00 $159.95
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" ALERT FLARE KIT	$29.84	$16.95
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" Life Jackets U.S.C.G.A.	$10.45	$3.69
" MK015 Cushions · U.S.C.G.A.	$15.25	$6.49
STEARNS Heads UP Vest	$30.10	$16.95
" Pee Wee Vest	$30.68	$16.95
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" 257 Flashlight	$19.95	$9.95
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" QC2000 w/CL9006 " Spotlight w/Trouble Light	48.20	$24.95
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" 1311DP 24" Stern Light	$19.50	$10.98
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CHUM LINES

ABOUT THOSE "FISH KILL" PHOTOS

Gentlemen:

This is a letter that I have meant to write for several years, but for one reason or another I haven't written until now.

I have had the opportunity to meet a few of you from The Fisherman at the seminars you've taught, and I've noticed that in most of your talks you always save a few minutes to speak about conservation. These words are important for fishermen to hear, as often people don't consider the future of the sport we all enjoy so much. The recreational fisherman's recognition of the need for conservation is vital to the continuation of our sport. This brings me to the reason for writing to the staff of The Fisherman.

In my years as a fisherman, I was taught that a good fisherman takes only the fish he can use. I don't fill garbage pails with mackerel or come back to the dock with bushel baskets of porgies or flounder.

It has often bothered me when reading The Fisherman that you print some of the subscriber photos that show 150 flounder nose to nose on a fillet table or a pile of bluefish and weakfish ankle deep sprawled all over a dock at Montauk or Captree. Let's be honest for about a minute and admit that many of the fish brought back in huge numbers go to waste. It seems like a great idea to bail fish after fish over the rail, but how quickly this enthusiasm wanes at 5:30 at night after spending 8 or 9 hours broiling in the July heat catching bluefish or freezing in a cold March wind catching flounder. Do you really believe standing over a fillet table cleaning a hundred or more fish is what this weary fisherman is going to do? Suffice it to say, that I believe these "fish packed" photographs you publish are ego trips in many cases. I understand that many of the photos you publish depict boat liveries, bait stations and charter boats that advertise in your magazine, and what better advertising than three guys standing over a bushel basket of fluke surrounded by a stack of bluefish holding a sign with your boat or bait station name on it. Being one of Long Island's leaders in teaching conservation I would hope you could overlook possible pressure from your advertisers and consider my suggestion.

I would ask you to consider adopting a policy at The Fisherman by which you limited the number of fish in a photograph to two per fisherman; this would seem to be a reasonable number. If it is still necessary to publish how a fisherman caught 95 flounder in two hours aboard the ..., then defer this information to the local reports in the back of the magazine. You may not consider this to be a significant factor in conserving our fish stocks, but I believe by adopting this "2 fish per fisherman" photo policy, that the staff of The Fisherman will be serving notice to some of the wasteful fishermen depicted in these photos.

I would like to close by saying that I don't believe all the photos you print with large quantities of fish represent wasteful fishermen. A percentage I wouldn't even want to guess at, however, are wasted and maybe a new policy is called for.

It's probably considered an old and corny saying, but I first heard it from an AM radio personality, and I've remembered it over the years. "Throw the small ones back, and leave a few for me."

Thank you for an excellent publication. I look forward to reading it each week. I look forward to hearing from you. Have a safe and successful 1986 season. Sincerely, *Richard Mayer.*

Dear Richard,

We couldn't agree with you more concerning photos of piles and bushels full of dead fish. We encourage tackle shop owners, boat captains and livery operators to send photos of one or two quality fish as opposed to large numbers of dead fish piled on the dock. Many, however, continue to submit "fish kill" photos. In most cases, the bulk of the catch is cropped out of the photo. In extreme cases, the photo winds up in the garbage.

We have to be reasonable in defining a fish kill, however. Most anglers would agree that a pile of flounder is far less repulsive than a pile of weakfish, for example.

Your comments concerning large catches resulting in fish being wasted has some merit. I have personally witnessed this in the case of bluefish. They are often caught in large numbers but don't rate very high on the eating list of many anglers. Given their poor freezing qualities, more anglers and boat captains should be practicing a catch and release philosophy once they have decked or beached a quantity of fish than can reasonably be consumed or shared with family and neighbors.

In the case of flounder, however, I doubt too many people are likely to let these delicious fish (which are currently retailing for about $7 per pound) go to waste, no matter how cold it is. And you can bet that if they ever had their fill of fish cleaning, they also have plenty of friends that would be all to glad to share in their good fortune. I don't know about you Rich, but as much fun as flounder fishing can be, my primary motivation to chase flatties is to put fillets on the table. I

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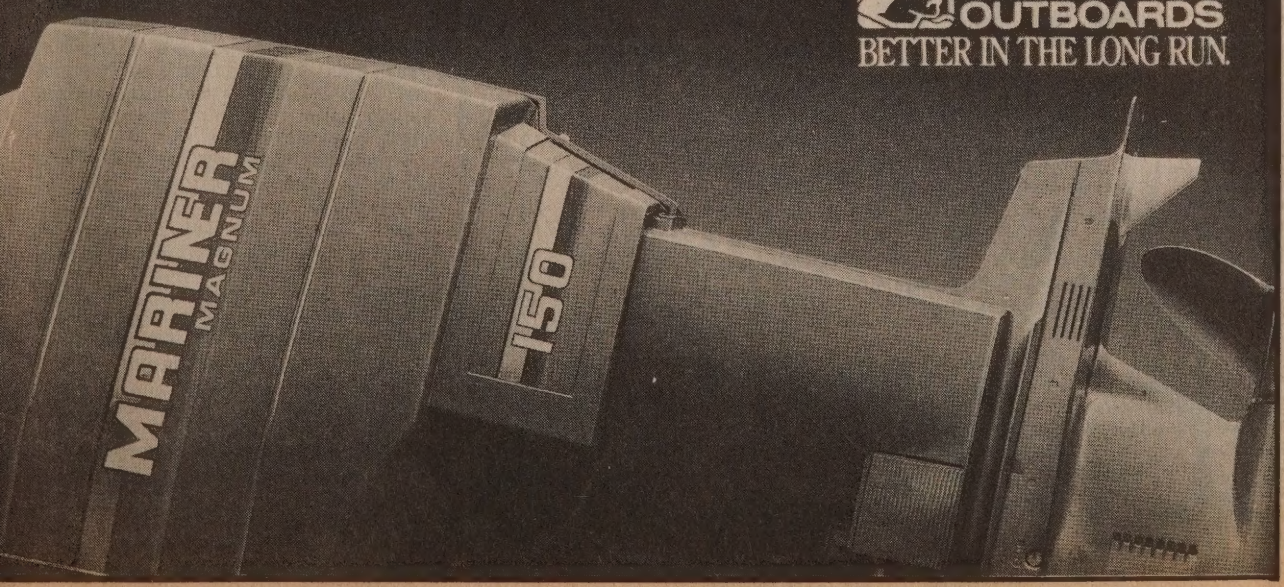

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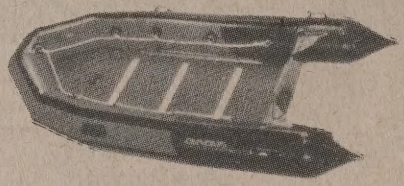

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will say that some of the big numbers reported could be reduced considerably if anglers were more selective about the size of the flounder they keep. Eight inches would seem to be a sensible size at which to keep a flounder. Some anglers, believe it or not, are of the school that if you catch it—you keep it.

Also keep in mind that in the case of a charter boat, where there may be six anglers responsible for a pile of fish, the catch may average out to just three or four fish per man. I doubt this would assault even the most dedicated conservationist's sensibilities.

Rest assured that we do indeed have a policy concerning dead fish photos and in recent years have become increasingly selective about the photos we publish. If you have a problem with some recent photos, then imagine what the catch looked like before it was cropped and worse yet, imagine the photos that ended up in the garbage. Sincerely, Fred Golofaro.

THANKS FROM GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB

Dear Sirs:

The Gateway Striper Club wishes to express thanks to John Fritz, The Long Island Fisherman and others involved with the New York Surf Fishing Contest, for a job well done. As winners of the 1985 contest, we wish to thank all of the other clubs for their participation in making the 1985 contest a great succes. We are looking ahead to the 1986 season and hope to see more clubs participate and make the contest truly a New York State contest. *Johnson Hanson, Sec'y.*

OUTDISTANCED BY THE BRITISH

To the Editor:

After reading Mike Campanelli's article on "Casting A Vote for Conventional," I am compelled to give my opinion.

With all due respect to Mr. Campanelli's experience and recommendations, he is not a modern up-to-date conventional gear fisherman.

Why would anyone, in this day of beautifully engineered magnetic reels, even think he needs an "educated thumb" to master conventional tackle. The magnetic braking prevents backlash.

The British are way ahead of our more traditional concepts of surf gear. They use zoned action rod with Penn, Garcia or Daiwa magnetic multiplier (conventional) reels and all the fishing control that a conventional can give. A good zoned action rod will prevent the use of light lures, under 2 ounces, but that is the only limitation I can think of. *Howard H. Skwer.*

Dear Howard,

I can vouch for Mike's competence with conventional gear and you're on the money concerning the British being way ahead in the distance casting game. Unfortunately for them, the nature of their coast has forced them to develop the specialized techniques

MAY 2, 3 & 4, 1986

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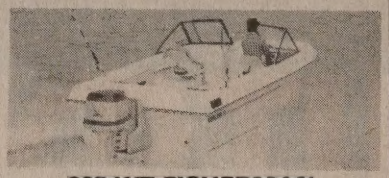

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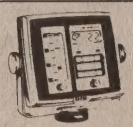

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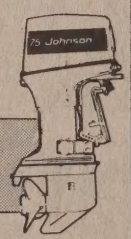

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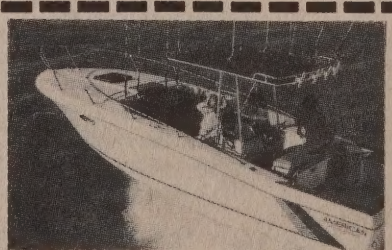

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in use there. What's that they say about "necessity being the mother of invention." Modified versions of British casting techniques and equipment are finding their way onto beaches where their application is practical. Fortunately for us, 500 foot plus casts are not needed to catch bass, blues or weaks. Sincerely, Fred Golofaro.

FISH TAGGING A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

Dear Fred,

This letter is NOT about the big fish I caught; nor about the big fish that got away. This is about the fish that I returned!

For several years, we have caught fluke under the 14 inch legal limit and returned them to the water, to perhaps catch again another day. How many times have so many anglers stated that they should be tagging these small fish, but never doing anything about it.

Early in 1985, I was reading the American Littoral Society's bulletin, *The Underwater Naturalist*, which called to my attention a program that they have been involved with for many years. Here was my chance to tag some of those undersized fluke and hope someday that I would be notified of a returned tag.

You can't imagine how excited I was during the middle of the summer this past year, when I DID receive a letter from the American Littoral Society offering their congratulations to me, as one of my tagged fish had been recaptured. In addition to letting me know all the details of when and where I released the fish, I was given the info on when and where it was recaptured, by whom, and the fluke's measurements. They even sent me a "goldfish" patch to mark the occasion!

I have tagged and released 40 fluke during 1985 and the excitement continues as I recently received my fourth letter of recapture. All of my fish were caught in the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Inlet area. They have shown up at Coney Island, Fire Island and Moriches.

The tags are very inexpensive and simple to use, and can be used on any kind of fish. I find myself releasing sea robins, bluefish, and even legal sized fluke now, after inserting a tag.

I am sure that while I am personally enjoying this activity, the ALS and scientists are learning some more about the migrations of the fish. I'm sure I will have my own observations before not too long.

This is not an advertisement for the American Littoral Society, but your readers can get more information by writing to them. (American Littoral Society, Sandy Hook, Highlands, NJ 07732). Membership is only $15 and you get all kinds of goodies including magazines, info on interesting trips and participation in the ALS Tagging program.

I would urge all of the fishing clubs to get involved with the program, as

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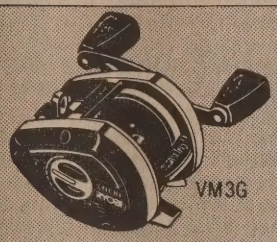

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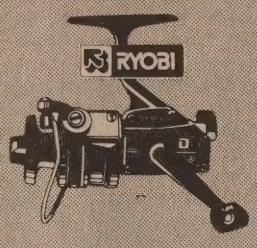

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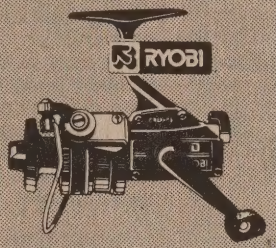

D-2 DEMON DRAG SPINNING REEL – WITH – MATCHING 6½' 2 PIECE GRAPHITE COMPOSITE SPINNING ROD

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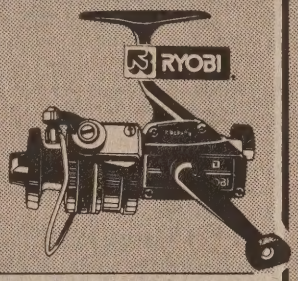

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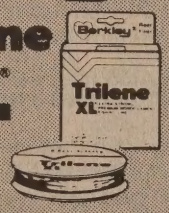

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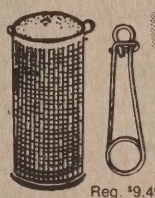

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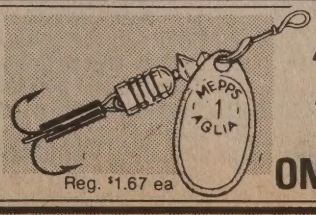

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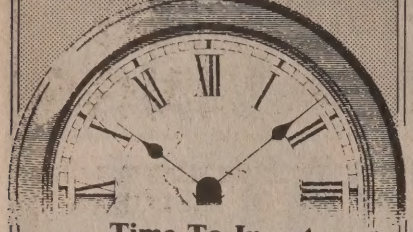

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this can turn out to be another intra-club contest for their members. Very sincerely, *Stuart Fries.*

Dear Stu,

Thanks for sharing your own tagging experiences with us. I'm sure many of our readers would like to take advantage of this enjoyable and rewarding way of aiding in marine research. Sincerely, Fred Golofaro.

WILL THE REAL PETE BARRETT PLEASE STAND UP?

Dear Chum Lines,

Here is a question from a curious reader: How old is Pete Barrett?

Going through an ancient copy of The Wise Fisherman's Encyclopedia, I found several photos taken by a photographer by that name. Now, I may be off by a few years, but Pete certainly is no more than forty or so years old. The publishing date of that book is 1951...could those 35 year old photos have been taken by Pete's father, or was Mr. Barrett already a master angler at the tender age of five?

Please solve this mystery! *Capt. Tom Hastings.*

Hi Tom,

There are actually two Pete Barretts: the older one is a trout fisherman and hunter who uses the byline Peter Barrett; the younger version is me, a saltwater fisherman who rarely hunts. My byline is always Pete Barrett.

We've both had some funny stories. Trout fishermen have approached me to autograph a New York trout fishing book written by Peter; he's been asked to autograph my shark fishing books.

Peter is about 65/70, I'm 40. When I get to be 70 our combined writing history will stretch over a period of nearly 90 years!

Hope this clears up your question. Have a good day, Pete.

FIRE ISLAND INLET STABILIZED BY DREDGING PROJECT

Dear Mr. Golofaro:

Knowing of your interest in the Fire Island Inlet, I wanted to let you know that the Army Corps of Engineers finished the Inlet's first dredging in seven years in late December.

After nearly a year of intense negotiations between local party boat captains, commercial and sport fishermen, the U.S. Army Corps of and other experts, the hopper dredge "Northerly Island" steamed into the Fire Island Inlet at the end of August. Its job was to clear away shoals from three points in the channel that made navigation through the inlet extremely dangerous. I had arranged for the Northerly Island to start in July, but it was diverted by the Army Corps to North Carolina. Fortunately, I was able to force the Army Corps to send a substitute dredge, the "Currituck," to begin the work at Fire Island. As a result of the work done by the two dredges between the summer and December, the inlet channel appears to be in better shape than it's been in a long time. In fact, it was able to stand up to Hurricane Gloria in good shape. We're all hopeful that this interim project will hold for the 1986 season.

The aim of the project was to stabilize the inlet channel on a short term basis. However, long term problems still exist. You can be sure that I will continue to work hard to see that discussions between fishermen, Army Corps officials, local and state officials, and coastal geologists go forward and that progress is made. After all, safe access to the Atlantic Ocean is one of Long Island's most valuable resources. It must not be lost. Sincerely, *Thomas J. Downey, Member of Congress.*

THANKS FOR INPUT INTO WALLOP/BREAUX FUND

Dear Dr. Muller:

This is to thank you for your service in advising the Division of Marine Resources on program improvements to be funded with Wallop/Breaux funds. Attached is a summary of the projects and budgets for which grant applications are currently being finalized. We presently anticipate new programs to begin in January, 1986, with annual federal funding levels of $650 to $700 thousand.

Please note that the projects we are proposing include the fishery management and enhancement, habitat conservation and research projects discussed with you over the past nine months. We have decided to pursue funding of a research vessel with state funds. Sincerely, *Gordon C. Colvin, Director of Marine Resources.*

WHAT ABOUT THOSE QUINCY FLOUNDER?

Dear Sir:

There was a news item on TV lately about flounder in Boston waters having cancerous tumors and that humans could be affected by eating such fish. I've been searching in vain for some kind of expanded coverage of the story without any luck, so I decided to write to you in the hope you can shed some light on the matter. I've taken Quincy flounder with tail rot, but this seems a little more ominous.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my request. *Charles Wanderer.*

Boston Harbor, similar to many big city adjacent waters, is highly polluted. For years we received mail about tail and fin rot with inquiries about the safety of eating fish taken from waters polluted with sewage. The last couple of years we've started getting mail suggesting that some of these fish have cancerous growths. We haven't explored this firsthand, but if it iS true, it probably means that toxic wastes are now affecting the fish along with the organic sewage pollution and would mean fishermen

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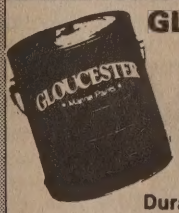

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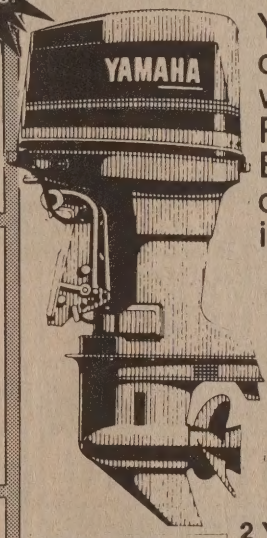

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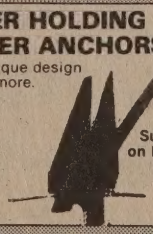

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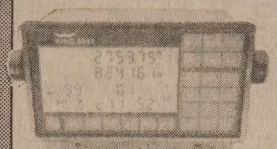

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12 - GUAGE

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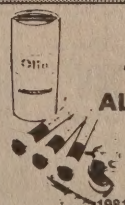

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should exercise caution in eating fish from such waters. If in doubt, contact the Massachusetts equivalent of New York's DEC and ask about the safety of eating these fish. Some fishermen avoid the problem by fishing for flounder in local waters with a reputation for producing large flounder at certain points in the season. Dr. W.A. Muller.

SEND-A-KID FISHING AND BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINES

Enclosed is a check towards Send-A-Kid Fishing. Keep up the good work. Our future depends on our children and if they are taught early enough to be true sportsmen and sportswomen our future will indeed be bright.

Besides the money, I have something else to offer either through you or one of my favorite scribes, Matt Ahern. I'm a pack-rat and save everything, but after putting an addition on the house I still don't have enough room. Therefore, I'd like to give away to some deserving kids or library my collection of Salt Water Sportsman from Nov. 1978 to the present. I also have assorted copies of freshwater magazines such as Pro Bass, Fishing World and Field & Stream.

I subscribe to all three issues of The Fisherman and recycle them among my fishermen friends; also saves trees. Regards, *Dave Williams.*

Any readers who would like to take Dave up his offer, can contact him at (914) 786-3259.

DEPT. OF TRANSPORATION RESPONDS TO LIGHTS OUT?

Those of you who are regular readers of Chum Lines will recall *Lights Out???* piece that appeared in the September 26th Issue No. 38. To refresh your memory, we responded to a letter from Jack Atwill, who was concerned about the lights being out on the Wantagh Bridge. We had attempted to contact Mr. Cuddy and Mr. Ruk at D.O.T. We did not get a response from D.O.T., so we wrote, "So maybe we can put put a bee in D.O.T.'s bonnet." Apparently we did, because Mr. Ruk called after the piece was published. He was very upset and indicated he is always responsive to the media and public. He suggested a failure of our messages to get through to him. There is more than one way to skin a cat, and in the end we got a response.

In recent discussions Mr. Ruk has been most enthusiastic and helpful. He has offered the following information. The bridge lights are the responsibility of DOT, while parkway lights are Lilco's gig. The bridge lights are on timers and sometimes the timing goes off for one reason or another. Thus, the lights might be on during the day and off at night. Mr. Ruk suggests that readers can help DOT get the lights back on schedule if they would call DOT when they note a problem. The number is (516) 360-6632. Dr. W.A. Muller.

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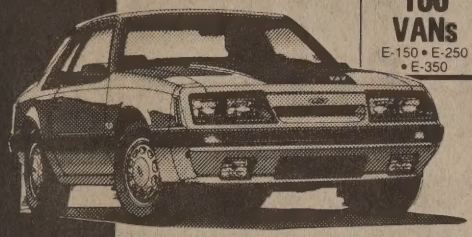

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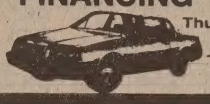

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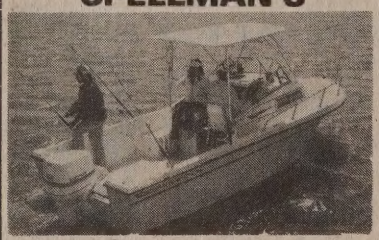

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RAMPAGE 28 SPORTSMAN

by Pete Barrett

The Rampage 28 Sportsman, introduced in mid-1985, admirably fills the gap between the Rampage 24 and 31 foot models. The touch of Captain Dick Lema can't be missed when stepping aboard for the first time: wide gun'ls, lots of storage, a roomy cabin and a big cockpit make the 28 a very fishable boat.

The hull is similar to other Rampage models and features a deep, sharp entry that gradually flattens to a modified vee at the stern. The flare of the bow keeps the boat dry while running in choppy seas, the wide forefront gives lots of cabin room and combined with a wide chine makes the Rampage very stable while trolling or drifting. Powered with twin Volvo BB260B gas inboards cruising speeds are in the high 20 knot range with a top speed in excess of 30 knots. Fuel economy is best at around 22 to 5 knots.

Shafts are stainless; wheels, struts and rudders are bronze. Underwater hardware is bonded. High amp batteries supply power to the master control panel with full array of breakers for all systems. Standard items include mufflers, bilge pumps, freshwater cooling, bilge blowers, vapor proof battery switch, fuel selector valves and aluminum tanks.

Built in Rhode Island with an eye toward giant tuna fishing, the construction of the Rampage is excellent throughout. High quality is everywhere you look with well fitting components, high gloss hull and fine teak joinery.

Stainless hardware including a high bow rail, grab rails, hinges, bow chocks, spring line cleats, stern cleats and hawse pipes are all through bolted for reliability and strength. The rub rail is heavy duty vinyl.

The cockpit is crowned so water flows into the molded drain channels and then out through 3 inch rubber flapped scuppers. A live well is built into the deck in-between the engine boxes with an even larger hatch ahead of it for dry storage. Each engine box has a wide seat on top, plus cooler/storage compartments built-in. Three access hatches across the stern provide access into the bilges.

Rampage has looked toward the future when laying out the helm. The

tilted stainless wheel is comfortable and both the throttle and shift controls are at a comfortable height. Of special interest are the compartments molded into the helm area to hold smaller electronics like Loran, VHF and a small recorder. All gauges and instruments are positioned for good visibility. Electrical switches are within close reach, labeled clearly.

Additional electronics can be installed in front of the helm or to port of the cabin entrance on the wide surface just ahead of the companion seat. Rampage provides a chart storage area here too. Most 28s will be sold with the tuna tower option and the overhead electronics box makes fast work of installing nearly any electonics wonder.

The windshield is positioned for excellent visibilty with no cross members blocking vision and the swing-out lower panels offer good ventilation.

Fishermen will like the cabin. The vee berth is large and only the tallest anglers will not be stand fully. The trim and decor is nicely done and very tasteful in muted tan and gray tones. There's a hanging locker, storage under the berths, cabin lights, overhead ventilation port, folding table, head with Y-valve discharge, vanity and shower. The galley includes stainless sink, stove, ice box, pressure water and storage cabinets.

A long list of options includes such things as a Marine Concepts fight chair and special support, seawater washdown, teak covering boards, combing bolsters, tuna door, recessed trim tabs, canvas enclosures, refrigerator, extra berth, Halon system, battery charger, shore power, extra wipers and the previously mentioned tuna tower and slightly lower marlin tower. The standard hull color is pale gray and it looks both distinctive and attractive. Optional colors are available.

One option deserves special mention: the lockable rod racks. Built unde the wide gun'ls under each side, these racks can hold up to 3 large International size reels per side. Smaller rods and reels can be doubled up in the holders to gain even more storage of smaller tackle. The racks are virtually waterproof and should be a popular option.

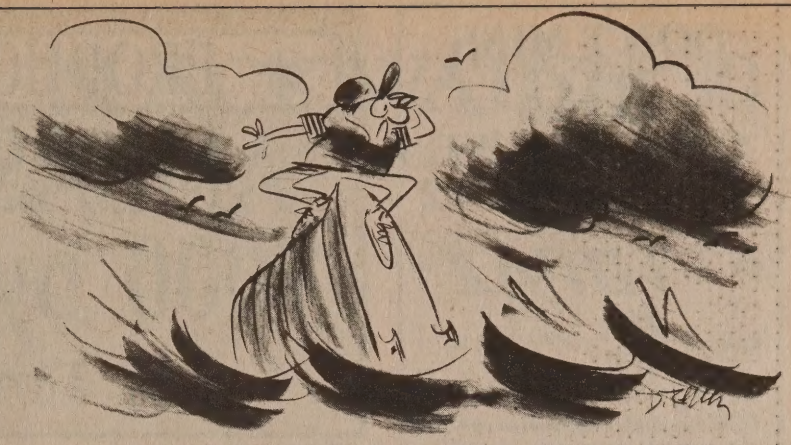
The Rampage 28 will appeal to fishermen who want a "mini" machine—a boat capable of battling mid range sharks and tuna, inshore blues and weaks and still be capable of making a long range trip to the canyons.

* * *

SPECIFICATIONS

Length (with pulpit) . . . . . 29'6"
Beam . . . . . 11'
Dry Weight . . . . . 8200 pounds
Power . . . . . Twin Volvo BB260B
Fuel Capacity . . . . . 256 gallons

Manufactured by: Rampage Yachts, Post Office Box 328, Warren, Rhode Island 02885, (401) 245-4754.



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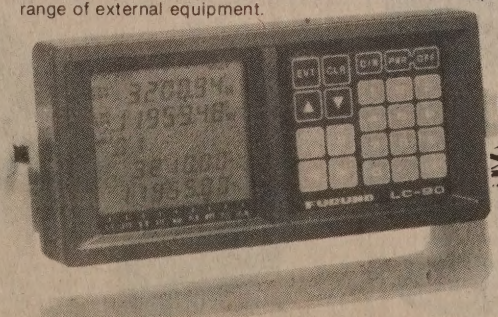

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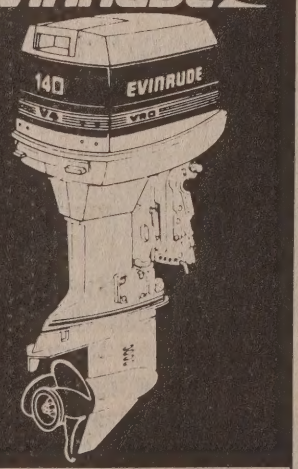

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★ PRODUCT REVIEW ★

AMBASSADUER 7000 by GARCIA

by Tim Coleman

My main experience with this reel (and the one I can best report on) is for surfcasting. Every fall I call on the Garcia Ambassadeur 7000 plus a graphite rod to hopefully handle some bass along the boulder beaches of southern New England.

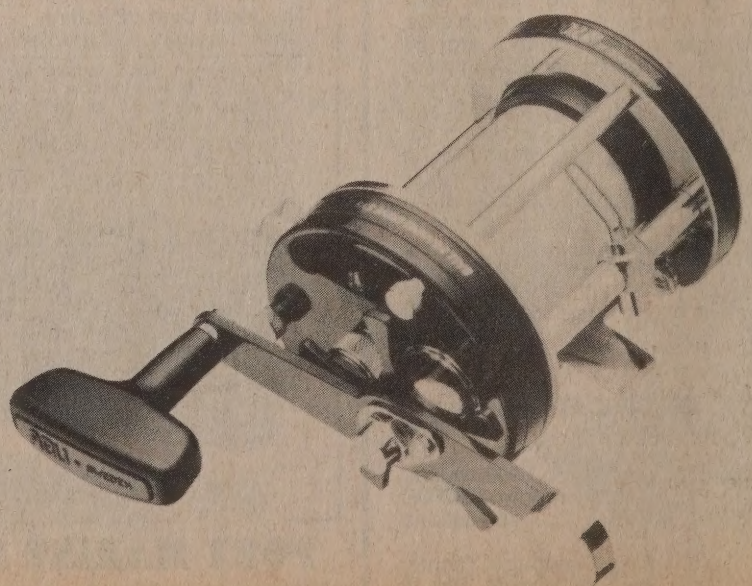
This past season one of our freshwater writers went with us on a striper trip. Upon seeing the reel for the first time he remarked it wasn't that much bigger than reels he used for largemouths. While the reel will readily fit in the palm of a man's hand, it is plenty big enough for trophy bass. Two years ago I was fortunate enough to catch my first batch of 50 pounders and last November fulfilled a boyhood dream when the gods smiled long enough to let me land a 67 pounder. Both of those experiences were with the 7000.

Because of the boulder "fields" one might fish in, 25 to 30 pound mono is a good choice. On several nights over the last five seasons the heavier line stood up to abrasion long enough to get a 30 pounder ashore. Casters working sand beaches could easily drop down to 20 or perhaps 17 pound test. The line capacity is 270 yards of 20 and 200 yards of 30.

Originally the reel came in a red finish which caused the name "red reel" to be given it in the many stories written by master surf angler, Mr. Frank Daignault. He didn't have to mention a brand name; people knew what he was talking about. Since then Garcia took the reel off the market, causing a shake of the head from many surf nuts. Well, it's back on the shelves in '86. In addition to the regular 7000, which comes in black finish, they will also sell a 7000C with stainless ball bearings.

A couple different surf angers had older models that would unexpectedly click into gear when casting. They would do this sporadically, sometimes causing a broken line and lost lure. In subsequent years, however, the company corrected this defect. All of my later 7000s (I have three) were never bothered by this initial drawback in an otherwise very reliable piece of equipment.

The newer 7000s have larger, flattened, rectangular handles that fit my grip much better than the small ones



on the older models. If you have an older reel you wish converted to the larger handle, contact Garcia Service Department or order the part through your tackle shop or reel repair outlet.

Each 7000 features a quick take apart for easy cleaning or do-it-yourself cleaning. One bit of prevention you might practice is a drop of WD-40 or some other lubricant on the level wind mechanism after each trip. Sometimes corrosion can form there if left unserviced for a period of time.

Any reader into the Needlefish craze sweeping the shore could use the 7000 for one to three ounce lures depending on line test and rod length. Casters in New England toss live eels with this reel while the Jersey jetty jockey would be content slinging his rigged eels.

Boat anglers will also like the Ambassadeur 7000. Fisherman Magazine senior editor, Pete Barrett, worked in Garcia's promo department over 15 years ago when the 7000 was first introduced and has been using the same pair of reels since that time. They are excellent for jigging bluefish of all sizes, for baiting small sharks and when light tackle chunking for school bluefins and yellowfins. Great Lakes salmon fishermen have been using the 7000 ever since the coho explosion first got started in Lake Michigan and musky trollers have also popularized the reel.

The red anodized finish looks sharp and holds up well with care to wipe the surfaces with oil every now and then. The reel frame, level wind post, tension adjustment knobs and screws are all heavily chrome plated. Internal parts are a mix of bronze, brass, aluminum and stainless steel. Surf anglers who get the reels drenched and submerged in saltwater should be careful to disassemble the reel before using it to fully coat all internal parts with grease or oil.

The drag is composed of a special fiber type washer that seats into the main gear. Adjustment of the drag setting is good over a wide range even when using heavy lines. Boat fishermen will find the factory drag to be A-OK, but surf anglers who put their reels to extremely hard use may want to try installing Teflon washers. They are available at many tackle shops or from Bucko's Parts and Service in Fall River, Massachusetts.

The Ambassadeur 7000 is one of those classic reels that seems to go on forever making fishing easy and efficient. From surf bass and blues to school tuna and small sharks this reel does it's job very well.

One final thought: I wonder aloud if Garcia will put some type of magnetic casting control on this model like they've done on some of their other products. But, on the other hand, as you add extras you add to the price. Some of us like this reel just the way it is.

Manfactured by: Abu-Garcia Corporation, 21 Law Drive, Fairfield, NJ 07007; (201) 847-7666.

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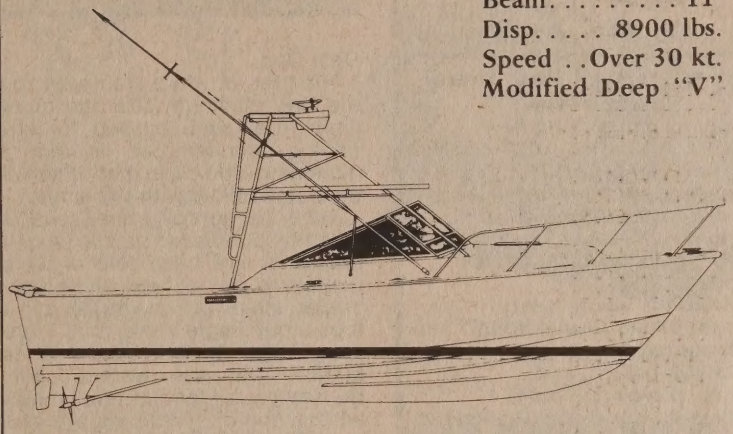

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

First let me state I'm happy to see the new minimum size and quantity limits that were passed for striper fishing, commercial netting, and marketing. I do hope that other Atlantic states follow with the same.

Next, I've got some questions. I just recently purchased a surf rod, reel and what I've been told is an adequate line of rigs, jigs and plugs for striper fishing (a Penn 850SS and a 10 foot stout Eagle Claw rod). I understand the striper season is from March until the waters chill in December. A friend of mine mentioned that the early stripers are caught on bait, rather than the lures. Is this true? If so, what types are usually best?

Next, I was thinking of using chum from the surf or jetty. Would this increase my chances of luring stripers into the area I'm fishing?

John P. McGarvey.

Dear John,

The striped bass season (New Jersey) opens on March 1st and closes at midnight on December 31st. Declining striped bass populations have caused a dramatic dropoff in the early season catch since these were fish that migrated north from the Chesapeake Bay, or wintered over in some of the southern area rivers and bays. The declining numbers of stripers has, in turn, caused a lot of striper fishermen to look elsewhere for their early season angling enjoyment. Places like the once productive Mullica River, Great Bay and Toms River/Barnegat Bay no longer provide a reliable early season fishery and due to the lack of big bass migrating north most of the beachfront communities do not provide a fishery until later in the season.

If you must fish for bass you definitely will catch more early season fish when using bait. Blood or sand worms are standard offerings and are preferred by most experienced striper fishermen for early season use. Fillets of mackerel, bunker or herring are effective also and there's always the possibility of hooking a big linesider when using whole clams (shelled, of course), squid heads or live eels.

I would not bother wasting money on chum. Years ago surf and jetty fishermen did chum for stripers. Lobster (God help us) was a favorite of the elite, while crushed clam or clam bellies were commonly used by the rank and file. At today's prices and due to the lack of large schools of stripers, I would not waste time or effort in chumming unless I was fishing one of the rivers or bays where chumming with fresh grass shrimp is still widely practiced. And don't think that this is less expensive than chumming with clam or bunker, for today the lowly grass shrimp commands a very high price when purchased by the quart or gallon. To fish a full tide you will need at least a gallon of fresh shrimp and I do not honestly feel you will see a reasonable return for the money you must spend.

Keep those rigs, jigs and plugs handy. By midsummer and through the fall months you will find they catch bass. The most popular plugs in recent seasons are the Needlefish and the slender bodied swimmers such as the RedFin, Bomber, Hellcat, Rebel, Rapala and others of similar configuration. Metals like the Hopkins, Ultimus, Kastmaster and imitations of them will usually produce some bass and for sure, the time honored bucktail type leadhead is a fish catcher in all waters, both fresh and salt throughout the world.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I am going to install downriggers on my 25 foot Grady White. I have I/O twin 190s. I am not sure as to what type to install regarding the boom. Should I install a 25 inch or a 4 foot boom? Also I never go out alone. Should I invest in electric downriggers or manual? I am a novice and asked fellow fishermen as to what type to install, and everyone gives different advice. Your comments would be appreciated.

Nicholas V. Saracino.

Dear Nicholas,

We've used both the short boom and the longer four foot boom on several different boats we've owned in the past dozen years. Each has its place in the market, but for our money the short boom has proven itself and we use it with our twin outboards when fishing inshore and offshore waters. A swivel type base mount will certainly save you grief. The swivel base allows you to swing the boom

back into the boat so you can easily change lures, reset the depths or attach a second or third release clip between the weight and the surface. And, when a fish is hooked you can retrieve the weight, swing it into the boat and fight the fish without worry of tangling the downrigger cable.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the electric models are much easier to operate whether you fish alone or with a couple of other anglers. The automatic retrieve feature allows ease of use and immediate re-setting of a desired depth without having to lower or raise the weight by watching a gauge on the cable storage reel. These are definitely more costly than the manually operated models, but in the long run may be worth the additional cash outlay.

I cannot recommend one specific model above another. That's like asking a friend if his wife is a better cook than mine. No matter what you say, you end up in the middle. With today's modern manufacturing technology, every manufacturer is producing good merchandise.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I am presently a senior in high school, and I am planning to attend Cook College, to which I have just been accepted.

I've recently been assigned a research paper in English class. The topic which I chose for this project (fishing related, of course) is the development and application of hybrid game fish. Cross-breeding of different species is a relatively new idea, but amazing results have come from it. My problem is that my high school library has nothing to offer me that pertains to this field which seems to have broken wide open.

My objective is to find out what new "strains" have been developed, what are the advantages of raising hybrids over natural species, and what can they do to complement the present populations of fish in our lakes and streams.

I'd like to know if you can help me find out who is conducting these experiments and what plans does the State of New Jersey have for the products of their work.

Gary DeMartinis.

Dear Gary,

Your best bet is to contact the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife. The state biologists are constantly checking into all new developments in the field you mention and should have all the facts and figures on hand.

Try calling the Education and Information services department at 1-609-292-9450. Explain what you want and I am sure someone can assist you. I do know the Division has already done some work with the hybrid striped bass/white bass strain and in the past they have carried on research with the tiger musky, tiger trout and several other cross-bred species.

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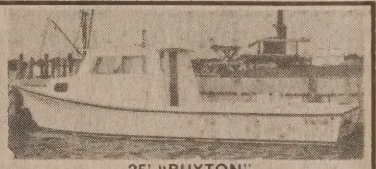

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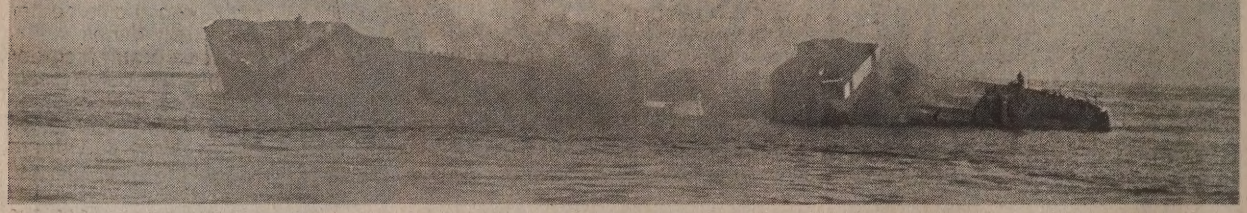
Part One — *by John Raguso*



It doesn't seem like 12 months have gone by since we introduced the Atlantic Wreck Series in The Fisherman last year, but the calendar tells me it's indeed true. Many of you have written to me requesting favorite wrecks you'd like to see covered in future articles. A good number have also expressed your comments at the various boat shows and Expos, asking specific questions as to what boat layouts and electronic gear are best suited for serious wreck fishing.

Prior to the first installment for 1986 (Issue #16), we will focus on how to set up a boat for both inshore and offshore forays to find and work effectively the many proven undersea fish havens that dot the New York Bight. In addition, we'll touch base on the 25 or so wrecks that we're going to feature this season, and I guarantee they'll be some beauties that you've always wanted to know about, but were never sure who to ask. We're even going to include a few in Long Island Sound and the Block Island area for readers who concentrate their efforts on those waters.

Although many regular readers to this column are knowledgeable about the benefits of fishing near sunken shipwrecks, some who are new to the saltwater scene might be unaware. For their edification, let's briefly review why shipwrecks are considered to be top-notch fish-attracting devices.

The coasts of both Long Island and New Jersey feature barren, sandy bottoms which gradually slope to a radical, sudden dropoff at the edge of the Continental Shelf. The only natural structure to be found are the occasional dips of the various fathom curves which parallel both shorelines and create a "stair step" effect on the ocean floor, thereby producing rips, upwellings, currents and eddies that attract both baitfish and pelagic predators.

Wrecks offer the habitat that is missing from the natural lay of the sea bed and provide food, shelter and protection to a wide range of species. The rusting hulk of a sunken ship promotes the growth of barnacles, anemones, sea grass, etc., that many small fish like bergalls, blackfish, sea bass, porgies and mid-water baitfish find a necessary part of their daily diet. Larger groundfish like cod, pollock, hake and doormat fluke set up residence on the fringes of the structure to catch any unsuspecting baitfish for an easy meal. Many pelagic species such as bluefish, sharks, tuna, marlin and some summertime exotics like wahoo and dolphin also cruise near the wrecks, due to the known quantity of these locations providing predictable forage for their journeys. As you can see, wrecks have a little something for everyone and you are not limited to just anchoring up over one small piece of structure. Drifting and chumming near a wreck's location or trolling baits or lures in the general vicinity can be equally as effective and also allow many anglers to fish the same wreck without getting in each other's way. Now that we've got an idea as to why wrecks are a good bet for a day's fishing efforts, let's examine the tools that will make finding and fishing the wreck of your choice a lot easier.

Choosing a layout: I've always been a fan of seaworthy outboard craft in the 23 to 27 foot range. Given the typical sea and weather conditions of our area and using prudence to determine when and how far you'll travel in search of your favorite quarry, there's not much you can't do with a boat of this size. Presuming you have enough gas in your onboard fuel cell to make your destination and back with about a 20 percent reserve, these platforms are a viable medium to get to most of the coastal wrecks, and are priced so that they are within the realm of affordability for those of us with modest means. My preference for a layout is a walkaround cuddy, since it allows you 360 degree access to all parts of the boat plus a safe haven to retreat from the weather should the need arise. Other deck formats include center and dual consoles, center console cabin and full cuddy designs and each has its advantages and disadvantages when compared to the walkaround cuddy.

Certainly, any reasonably-sized craft capable of running an inlet safely can find and fish a wreck and there are a number of really productive spots outside many of our Long Island and New Jersey inlets. I've seen 17 foot Whalers out by the San Diego and 40 foot Sportsfishermen inshore on the Rota, so your choice of chariot is a personal thing. One minor consideration is the issue of power plants.

No matter what your preference, outboard or inboard, gas or diesel, make sure you have **two** of them. I'm a stickler for being able to control my own destiny whenever possible and you should be too. What with general towing rates being in the neighborhood of $75 to $100 per hour and the Coast Guard operating on a reduced budget and services mode, you don't want to be caught short 20 to 30 miles or more off the beach with an engine that's taken an early vacation. For those readers with single outboard or I/O setups, you can easily add a heavy duty bracket and 2-cycle kicker in the 20 to 30 hp class to your present rig if you want to. There's even a remote oil mixer on the market for the auxiliary mill, so you can tap the main fuel supply of your I/O or oil-injected outboard, thereby eliminating the need for extra carry-on tanks with premixed oil and gas.

One attribute that your craft should have is easy access to the bow to facilitate anchoring. While this is built-in with center and dual consoles and walkaround cuddies, the same cannot be said for many full cabin or center console cabin models. Even though many owners might retort that their rigs have access via a hatch or catwalk to the bow anchor station, how many times have you tried getting there or sent one of your crew

mates up forward to set the hook in 4 to 6 foot seas with a 20 knot wind blowing on a wet, slippery deck? It's something you certainly don't want to make a habit of! To conclude our discussion of deck layouts, recognize that each has unique features and a specific utility that you must evaluate before making a commitment to go with one type of craft over another.

Addressing the question of which accoutrements will assist in the job of locating, holding and fishing a wreck's position once you are ready to make your trip, I've broken that down into the following categories:

Data: "If you're going to fish 'em, you've got to find 'em," as the old axiom goes. At one point in the not-too-distant past, wreck fishing was a ritual performed by only a handful of seasoned veterans like charter, head boat and commercial skippers who could afford the very expensive Lora A, paper graph recorders and side scan sonar equipment needed to practice this rite. Accurate Latitude/Longitude coordinates or Loran A TDs for a wreck were not as readily available as they are today for Loran C, and were usually kept shrouded under lock and key in the captain's wheelhouse or even on his person, never to be seen by the public eye, and shared only with the closest of associates.

The problem we have today is at the opposite end of the spectrum, and that's an overabundance of wreck positional information, but with much of it grossly inaccurate. Some well meaning mariners have made copies of various wreck lists that are in circulation, never having actually confirmed the locations before passing it on to someone else. Numbers invariably become juxtaposed or misquoted and this leads to a self-perpetuation of misinformation. Other unscrupulous characters have seized on an opportunity to make a fast buck and are selling these wreck lists for anywhere from $10 to $20, also simply passing along unconfirmed numbers. "Caveat emptor," as the Roman soothsayer used to say, or let the buyer beware!

One list I've come across that's fairly good is that published by Capt. Vic Enterprises of 8 Iris Court, Milltown, New Jersey. I know that Capt. Vic has spent many hundreds of hours verifying the accuracy of his numbers in the field as a charterboat skipper and the ones he's not sure of he admits and identifies in generic location terms.

Understand, too, that even when you have "exact" Loran TDs for a favorite wreck, the sensitivity/tolerance limits between different types of machines can lead to a full 1 to 2 microsecond variance in display data. This translates to a possible 600 to 1200 foot difference that could have you cussing your TDs as bad numbers, when actually the numbers were good and required that you conduct a routine controlled search pattern to find the wreck's precise resting place as it pertains to your Loran unit. Loran accuracy claims of repeatability to 50 feet are true, but this is only when you use the same machine as your control source.

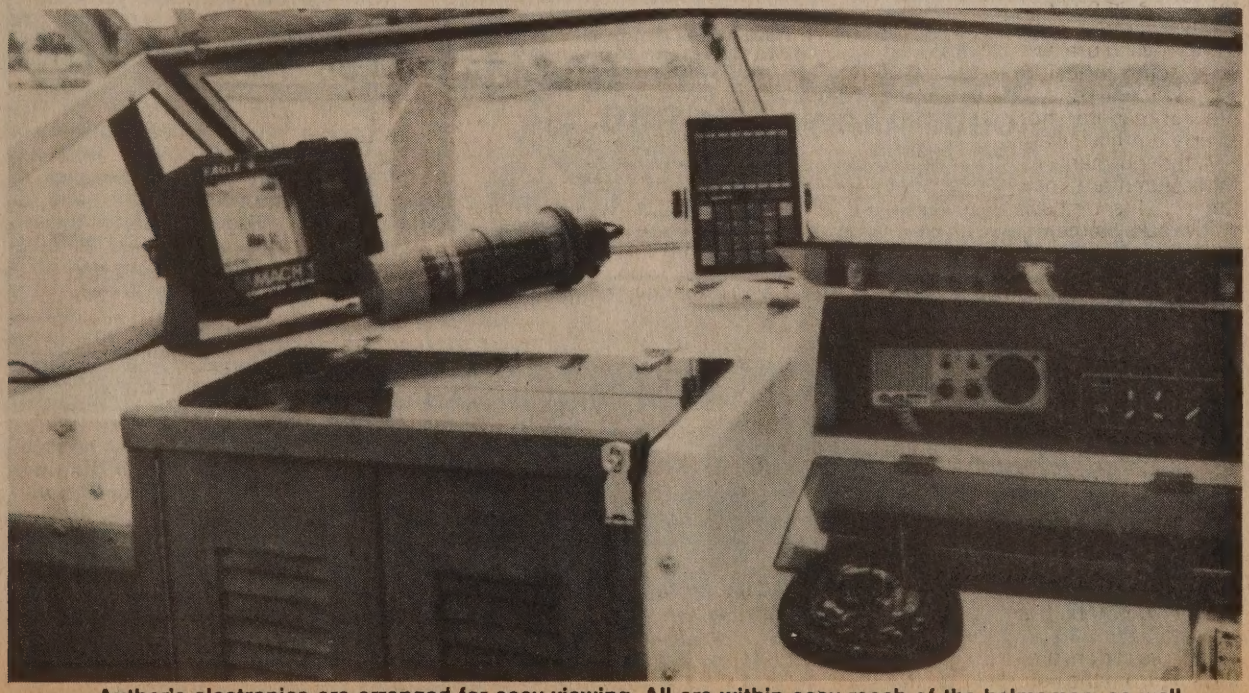
Electronics: The advent of accurate and affordable Loran C units, many priced below $700 retail, has done more for the current boom of wreck fishing than any other phenomena. The abundance of quality computer graph recorders under $400 has also lent a big assist in nurturing this interest among the saltwater clan.

If you're serious about finding the wrecks consistently and desire to spend the maximum amount of time "fishing" as opposed to "searching," it's recommended that you purchase the best Loran C unit and computer graph that you can afford. If you try to pinch pennies here, you're likely to be rewarded with aggravation and wasted energies down the road. When you factor in the investment of your boat with fuel, dockage and insurance costs, complemented by opportunities limited by weather, species migration patterns and your available free time, you begin to get the picture. In most cases your success will hinge upon consistently finding a diminutive piece of productive bottom structure and that's where the quality Loran and computer graph units will pay dividends.

My preference for a graph recorder is one which prints the depth scale directly on the paper. This allows you to save specific shots of your wreck trips for future reference without struggling to recall what bottom depth range you were using at the time. This feature also provides the viewer with an instant readout as to how far the wreck or structure comes up off the bottom and the precise level of any fish school concentrations.

Incorporating a switchbox with two transducers of different slope angles is something you might also want to try. The setup on my 24 foot Grady White has a high speed 20 degree plastic transducer mounted flat against the port transom lifting strake, so it's perpendicular to the ocean floor. I also have an 8 degree hockey puck-type transducer secured to the inside of the Grady's bilge area with epoxy glue, designed to "shoot through" the 100 percent fiberglass and resin skin of the boat. The 20 degree unit seems to work well in shallow water up to about 135 feet,

(Continued on next page.)



Author's electronics are arranged for easy viewing. All are within easy reach of the helmsman, as well.

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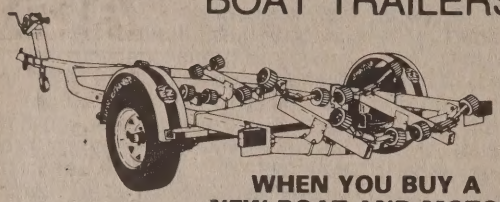

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while the 8 degree puck gives great readings to 300 feet and more, even though it supposedly loses a little of its signal while passing through the hull. Both transducers work cleanly at 25 knots and the wide angle cone is great for searching a large expanse of bottom, while the narrow angle cone is best when trying to pinpoint the exact whereabouts of a wreck or for working deep water. The following gives you an idea of the "scope" of each transducer, depending on the depth in which it is used:

Depth Of Water	Diameter 8° Cone	Diameter 20° Cone
50 feet	7 feet	18 feet
100 feet	14 feet	35 feet
150 feet	21 feet	53 feet
200 feet	28 feet	71 feet

Loran C units have come a long way, especially in the last five years. The price barrier has dropped below the magic $1,000 level to a low of $499 for some machines! Most competitive brands will do everything but change your socks, and the navigation course and speed data are invaluable aids in getting to your destination in the most efficient manner. It sure beats the old "Kentucky windage" method of a compass and a stopwatch.

You would be best advised to complete your electronics package wiht a reputable VHF marine radio. This indispensable item will apprise you of any Coast Guard advisories or changes in weather patterns, provide a shore-based communications link (presuming you are within range), in addition to giving you some electronic "ears" to find out how your seagoing brethren are making out on the fishing grounds. If your budget will allow it, a marine CB radio will be a beneficial backup to the VHF set. With the CB, you have yet another tool to tune in on the shrewdies who use this wavelength to share their deepest secrets, due to its reduced and localized range.

Some additional items on the shopping list for those anglers who ply the offshore wrecks with any frequency are a good compass no matter what your budget, and an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon). Should all other means of communications fail in a compromising circumstance, the EPIRB "B" unit will give you about a 200 mile reach to coastal emergency rescue centers, via satellite interface. Both Guest and ACR make quality machines priced under $200, so an EPIRB should be a standard item on your rig, as should the best "no spin" compass you can afford for the times when nothing electrical seems to work up to snuff.

And that concludes our discussion for this week. In next week's article, we'll pick up with the type of ground tackle you'll need to position yourself over a wreck, as well as buoys and markers you can make yourself, tackle and bait and a list of some of the wrecks we'll cover this season.

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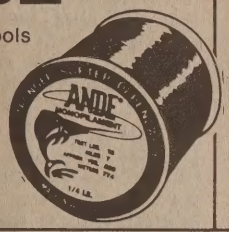

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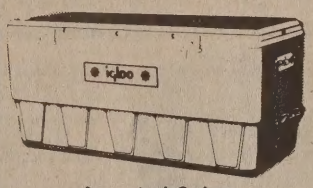

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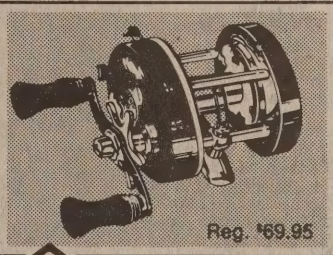

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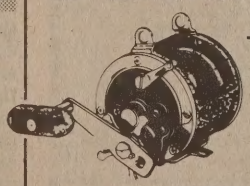

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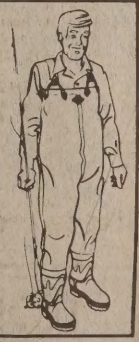

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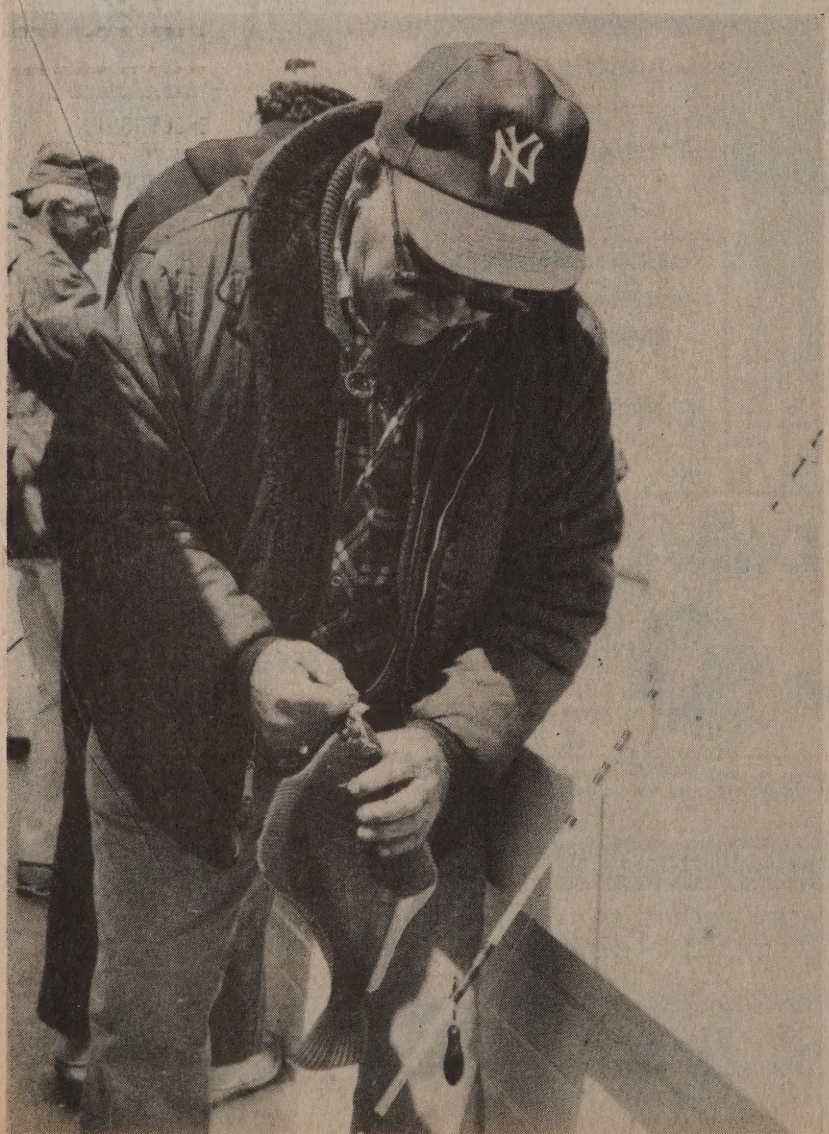
UNSPOILED FLOUNDER

by Tom Schlichter

The later starting date for north fork flatties is a blessing in disguise.

The Peconic Star pulled around Orient Point and easily settled into a 25 foot hole not more than a hundred yards off the deserted, rock-strewn beach. A calm day, the water gently lapped at the shore as I lowered my line and thought to myself that, with a good stick, I could probably cast half the distance to the boat from a large flat boulder which lay but a short wade from the tide line.

While busy contemplating just such a possibility, the sharp peck of a spring flattie at the end of my line brought me quickly back to the present. I reacted (way too late) with a sharp, jerky lift of my line. "Missed him!" I muttered to myself.



Yankee fan decks a fine flattie on the Sound side of Orient Point aboard the Peconic Star.

Before I had time to bring my rod down from overhead, the booming voice of Ed Santo bellowed over my shoulder. "What are you trying to do? Rip its head off!"

I stammered something about being caught by surprise, but Santo would have none of it.

"You've got to be gentle with these fish—like the girl is!" he taunted. The girl, my wife Tina, was at the moment lifting her sixth flatties of the young morning over the rail while I had managed but two keepers. As is her habit when we go flounder fishing, she was well on her way to kicking my butt.

Thinking back now, that trip last May was one of the most enjoyable I took all season. As the day went on, I eventually caught up to Tina in the flounder tally and Santo entertained the stern with stories of two-headed cows on Gull Island and genetically altered flounder weighing as much as four pounds (other people call them snowshoes) that escape from the government laboratories on Gull Island each spring to sulk in the waters off of Gardiner's Island for a few days before swimming out to the open ocean.

Accessible via party and charter boats, rental boat stations, private craft launching ramps, or even the beach, the north fork offers some of the finest flattie action available anywhere. Of course, the action out this way gets started a little later than on other parts of the Island, but this gives rise to two major advantages. First of all, even smaller fish taken here are reasonably plump, so you don't need to catch 20 fish to come away with 2 lbs. of fillets. Secondly, the weather for the most part is much more comfortable and less windy than earlier in the season, making for better family fishing conditions.

If you have never fished this area, you're in for some surprises: the surrounding area is scenic, the fishing grounds are considerably less crowded than other areas, and the waters are clear and blue. Most of the fishing here is done in relatively deep water and you'll have to make a few adjustments if you intend on filling a bucket or two. To this end, let's take a minute to examine the necessary tackle.

Due primarily to the strong East End currents and 15 plus feet of water you'll be working most of the time, heavier gear than is usually used in the shallow bays becomes a necessity. Although some anglers make do with heavy spinning tackle, I think that most regulars to these waters will agree with me when I tell you that conventional gear and 12 to 20 lb. test line is far superior under these fishing conditions. While you don't exactly need a meat stick to fish with, keep in mind that you'll often use sinkers of 3 to 5 ounces and these can drastically dull the sensitivity of rods designed to fish 6 to 8 lb. test

and one or two ounce sinkers.

The terminal end consists of a single or tandem tied rig attached to the main line via a dropper loop two inches above a bank sinker. If you've read any of my past spots on flounder fishing, you'll know that I usually swear by #8 English Wide Gap style hooks when chasing flatties. For some reason, however, I've always had better luck in these waters when using size #8 Chestertowns. I'm not quite positive why, but I suspect that in these strong currents, the long shanked Chestertowns keep the bait a little more stationary on the bottom than do the lighter Wide Gaps.

When it comes to hooking flounder, anybody can catch a few—that's one of the most appealing characteristics of this delicious tasting quarry. Those who consistently catch the most flatties, however, are masters of the "slow lift." The slow lift method of floundering is simple to explain and not difficult to see demonstrated, but it does take a little practice to perfect. Still, there is no reason one can't learn the basics in the course of a single trip. Essentially, it entails SLOWLY lifting your line off the bottom two or three inches as you first feel the fish nibble your bait. If the flattie is interested, it'll tighten its grip on your bait but usually without transmitting anything up the line that feels like a bite. The tip-off is that as you lift your rod, the tip should bend slightly, indicating that the fish is trying to hold bottom. At this point, the flattie has a solid hold on your baited hook and a short set should bury the barb in the roof of its mouth. Lift your rod too quickly and the flattie will simply let go. Lift too slowly and it will steal your bait.

Like anywhere else, the flounder in this area are strictly bottom feeders consuming sea worms, shall crustaceans and mollusks. From my experience, however, these fish show a sharp preference for mussels over other offerings. I go with the mussels whenever I can. (Mussels are usually supplied by party boats in these waters.)

According to Captain Dave Brennan of the open boat Peconic Star, north fork action gets under way around the first of April with the main concentration of fish slightly to the west of Greenport. As the season progresses, the fish move east with the fleet in hot pursuit. Early May offers the best shot at "snowshoe flounder" as these fish school off of Gardiner's Island. The flatties round Orient Point sometime in late May and by June 1st, although there are still plenty of fish to be had by rental and private boaters, party boats generally switch over to other species as interest in the flatties begins to wane.

If you're looking to broaden your flounder horizons this season, the north fork should be on your agenda. It's quality fishing on a part of Long Island that still remains relatively unspoiled.

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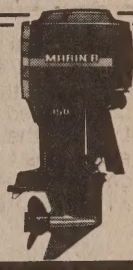

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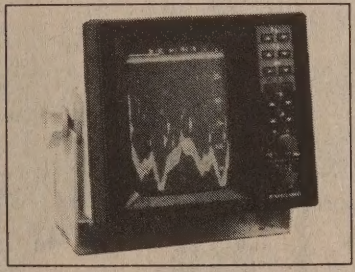

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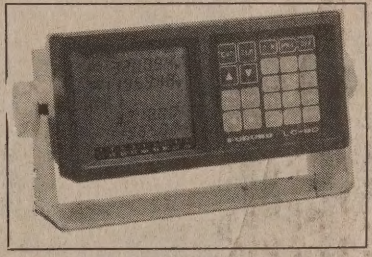

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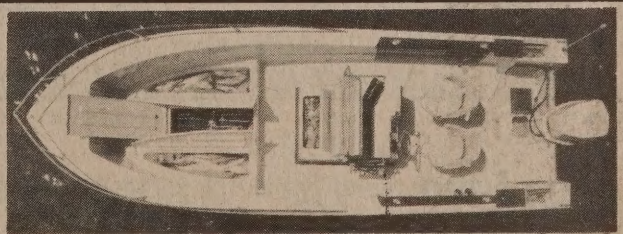

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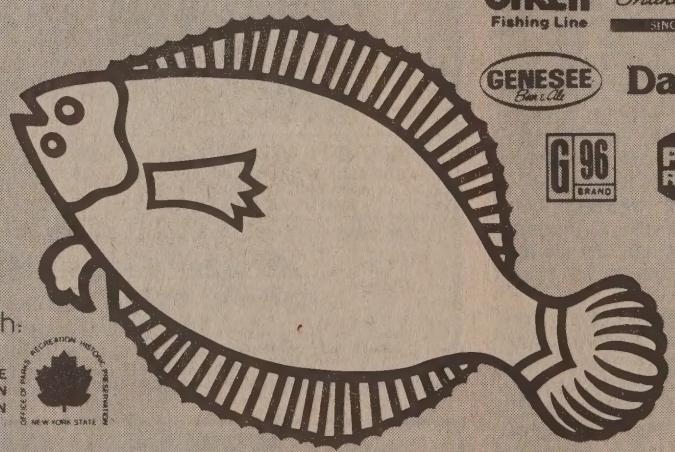

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SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SOUND

by Ted Keatley

Are you stuck with it?

That question usually infers that you have something which you really do not want—unless you are anchoring a boat. Then you want to be stuck and quickly.

With a new season starting, many people will be in the market for an anchor. Often, they will end up with the 2-2-2 problem: too small an anchor, too large a line diameter and too little scope.

If you plan to fish 10 feet of water, a concrete block on a length of laundry line probably would do most of the time. However, if you want to position yourself on a deep water blackfish reef or anchor safely should the motor fail in open water during sloppy weather, a little more is necessary.

Don't be misled by the holding power ratings of the manufacturer. I have suspected that they are obtained in an indoor swimming pool with the ventilating fans turned off. It always is wise to buy an anchor one size larger than the specification sheet indicates for your boat length.

I have tried all types of anchors over the past 40 years and concluded that a self-tripping anchor of the Danforth type is most versatile. Note that I said self-tripping. These anchors have a double shank which permits the ring to slide down against the flukes when you come around behind it. Rarely do you have trouble breaking it out, even on rocky bottom. Over the years, I have bent a few flukes, but there was only one instance when I had to give up and cut the line. That time, I was fishing 40 odd feet of water on the Outer Steeple Reef off Rye's Scotch Caps. It was a chilly November day and when I was ready to leave, a strong gusty west wind had come up against a making perigee tide. Normally, I free the anchor by letting out a little more scope and circling against a taut line until the anchor came free. Usually, it breaks out as soon as the boat swings around in front of it.

This day, I kept putting out more and more line to no avail. I even tied in the line from my spare anchor and pushed the boat up to full throttle. Nothing gave and it was getting dangerous as I swung my 16 foot Dyer Glamour Girl broadside to four foot choppy seas. Discretion dictated that I retrieve as much line as possible and apply a sharp knife.

The Glamour Girl was powered by a 22 hp Palmer engine and circling at full throttle did little harm to the anchor. When I moved up to my present boat powered with a Ford V-8, I soon found that caution was necessary. On one of my first attempts at breaking out the hook, I bent the anchor into twisted metal that could have been titled Storm at Sea and entered in a modern sculpture contest.

Western Sound flatfishing should feature quality rather than quantity in 1986.

I carry two anchors (10 and 15 lb.) wih 200 feet of 3/8'' nylon line on each. The 10 lb. size normally is adequate for my boat and is a lot easier to haul back up, particularly if you are fishing in 60 to 70 feet of water. If the weather has deteriorated to the point where the 15 lb. size will not hold, I have no business being out there in a 20 foot boat.

Occasionally, I try bridling with two anchors when a gusty wind against the tide causes rapid swinging of the boat. Unfortunately, by the time that the second hook has set, the boat fetches up away from the reef dropoff which I wished to fish for blacks. It is frustrating to pick up a beautiful ledge with good fish readings and not be able to position over it. However, it is virtually impossible to precision locate a small boat in 40 to 50 feet of water when wind and tide have you playing crack the whip.

When I went out from Bridgeport with Capt. Steve Lubrano on the Delmar last fall, I was fascinated with his competence in bridling the 112 foot boat on several wrecks off Norwalk's Sheffield Island. Of course, with Steve in the wheelhouse and two mates on the bow handling the lines, he had an advantage over me. When you have the line in one hand and try

(Continued on next page.)

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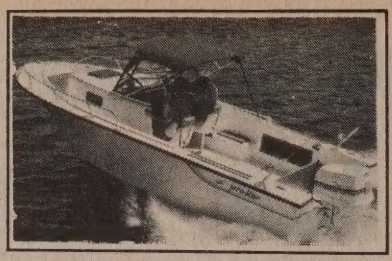

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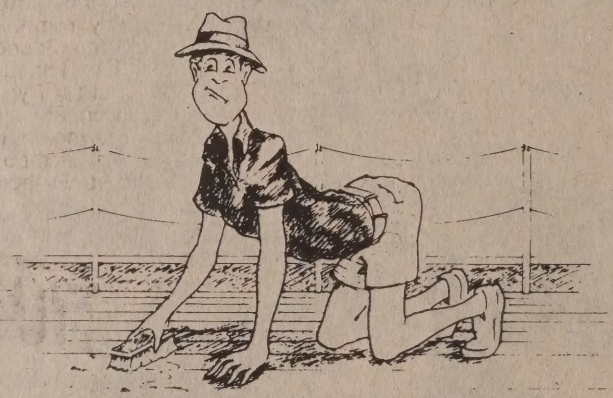

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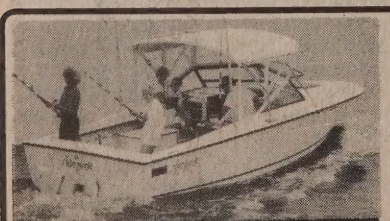

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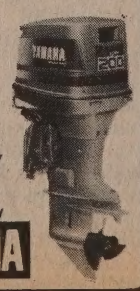

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to work the wheel and shift with the other, life gets difficult. In addition, he was positioning over a large wreck, not trying to pinpoint a few feet of ledge.

A length of chain ahead of the stock greatly increases your ability to set the flukes by holding the front of the anchor down. It also reduces line abrasion. I use four feet of 3/8" galvanized chain. This probably is excessive for most conditions, but a tremendous advantage if you want to fetch up fast when the wind or current are giving you trouble.

I have found 3/8" nylon line to be the best choice for a small boat. One-quarter inch probably would be acceptable, but the small diameter is hard to handle, particularly with cold hands and 1/2" increases water resistance without providing any particular advantage. Polypropylene is cheaper, but it is stiffer, slippery and often will leave slivers of filament in your hands.

The old rule of thumb is that anchor scope should be four times the depth of the water (200 feet of line in 50 feet of water, for example). I find that I usually can get by with less. When fall blackfishing at 30 to 60 feet in a calm sea, I often snub up until the line is almost straight up and down if that is what it takes to get the picture I want on my Lowrance chart recorder.

If you have no plans to drop the hook in deep areas, consider a good anchor and plenty of line to be safety equipment which will protect you on the unhappy day when the motor fails out on open water.

One final thought on anchors before I move along. Many inshore casters who constantly move from place to place find a 5 lb. anchor a lot easier to haul up time after time. Unless you are into weight lifting, a small hook makes life a lot easier.

April ushers in the peak of spring flounder fishing in western Long Island Sound. If 1985 was a forecast of things to come, this will be a good season for size, but only so-so for quantity.

Where will I fish for flounder this spring? As I write this, I haven't the foggiest notion. The fish move from year to year and until they pick their hotspots for the current season, I can only guess. The pattern undoubtedly is determined by water temperatures and food availability. With the 100 to 200 foot depths off Norwalk and Stamford, the waters probably warm up more slowly than they do further to the west in the Sound. When I kept my boat in Mamaroneck, I considered the flounder fishing to be pretty well over by the first week of May. However, a good bit of May provides excellent action from Stamford eastward.

As a rule, there is a heavy concentration of flounder in a particular area for only a week or so. Apparently, they clean up the readily available food and move on to greener pastures.

Here are some of the better western

Long Island Sound possibilities for this spring:

Oyster Bay: This is the place where the earliest good flounder fishing is reported. However, the fish tend toward the small side as the season progresses.

Huntington Harbor: This is a favorite of the party boats. They tend to work the area south of Wee Beach which separates Huntington and Northport Harbors. I never have found much but small fish there, but some years ago, I often did well west of Winkle Point and in Duck Island Channel.

Eaton's Neck: Excellent fishing often is reported in late April off the west side of the Coast Guard Station and further east beyond the reef which runs out to buoy 13.

Lloyds Neck: This normally is a very productive area, primarily on the easterly side, during late April.

Westport: The mouth of the Saugatuck River often provides good action. In 1984, I had my best flounder fishing of the spring season drifting the flats between Bluff Point and Seymour Rock near the top of the tide.

Norwalk Islands: Cockenoe is a popular spot and I have done well north of the channel inside of Goose and Grassy Islands, particularly on a falling tide. The area between Tavern and Sheffield Islands was fantastic in the spring of 1980, but results have been sporadic since then. Toward the end of the season, drifting the beach outside of Sheffield can produce some big flounder.

Rowayton: Some good fishing often can be had around the mouth of the Five Mile River.

Darien: The west side of fish Island, Ziegler's and Scott's Cove were among the most consistently productive spots last spring. This is the area lying just east of Collender's (Long Neck Point).

Stamford: Westcott Cove and the area off Cummings Beach provided some big flats last fall although numbers were not fantastic. A few two pound plus (honest weight) flounder were put on the scale. There are two reef areas on the front of Shippan Ave. and the other runs from Robbins, the opening at the east end of Stamford Breakwater, to the Cows. Good fishing often is found along the edge of both reefs. Be sure that you are fishing clean bottom. Rocky areas normally are fouled with sea lettuce and red algae in the spring. The grounds in front of the old Stamford Lighthouse also can provide good fishing in the spring.

Greenwich/Cos Cob: Much of Greenwich Harbor has a good potential for flounder. One of the most popular areas runs from the outer portion of Greenwich Cove as far as the Sound along Greenwich Point Park. In 1977 and 1978, there was fantastic fishing in the Sound off the beach on the east side of the park. However, results have been sporadic since then.

Don't forget the caution which I noted in several recent columns. Flounder will not be overly plentiful or concentrated if the pattern of last fall continues. If there is a fast flurry of action when you drop the bait and then nothing more, it is time to move. Last autumn, there usually were two to a dozen flats quickly and that is all she wrote. It was a signal to try another spot. If the wind and tide are right and the bottom clean, drifting could be the best technique. If you drift, don't forget that there is a lot of red, hairy algae on the bottom in early spring. The juiciest piece of sandworm catches few fish if it is wrapped in a slimy red ball. Check frequently to be certain that your hooks are clean.

I seem to be running out of space. Next month's column will take a look at mackerel, blackfish and striped bass prospects. Actually, before April is out, there should be the first signs of mackerel, a few blackfish moving inshore over open bottom will be taken by flounder fishermen and there will be some striped bass reports, particularly from the extreme western end of the Sound around Little Neck Bay, City Island and New Rochelle. Bill Herold of Rye has been finding some action all winter with striped bass wintering in the warm water outfall of the Lilco power plant across the Sound at Northport.

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REFLECTIONS AND A GRIPE

by Matt Ahern

Over the years, the stories related in various Old-Timer tales have occasionally caused several readers to charge me with being a mawkish sentimentalist, a romanticist given to flights of fancy, even an unmitigated bearer of falsehood. On the first two allegations, I admit my guilt—I stand convicted. In defense, however, I must say I try always to refrain from being unduly mawkish, overly sentimental, or becoming that starry-eyed pilot of fanciful flight, which when given the scope of the storied events, does indeed become difficult to avoid. As for the charge of being a bearer of falsehood, which many readers who fished through that golden period will regard as the unkindest cut of all—why, this bothers me not one bit.

I understand.

I realize it is indeed difficult for one who has not fished through those glorious years to believe those wondrous stories of superb bottom fishing, stories which retell of one fisherman catching 105 cod (with four droplines); of another which told of catching nothing but doormat fluke or of the days when decking 25 or more fluke by party boat fishermen caused no undue comment.

All this is indeed difficult to believe, I know, and especially so when a beginner to our sport returns home with a disappointing catch (or no catch at all). I don't blame this fellow when he sits down and dashes off a scorching letter to old Matt, for I certainly sympathize and understand this fisherman's frustration.

As I've mentioned many times in old-timer stories, we fishermen of 50 and 60 years ago never realized we had it so good. Sure we had slow days; we didn't mohawk the fish everytime we went out; not by a long shot. But on our worst days, once the basics were learned, even the novice returned home with something to show for his efforts. You may be sure there were few grumpy bottom fishermen 50 or 60 years ago.

And yet, knowing all this and meeting with much success just about every time we went out, I can recall wondering how fishing must have been before my time. I suppose every fisherman worth his salt has done this. Actually, the fact that you are reading this article is its own proof of that.

Every fisherman is an inquisitive soul. And he should be, for without this streak or curiosity he (or she) will get nowhere. However, I believe none was more inquisitive than we fishermen of so long ago. And to aid in this curiosity as to how the other fellow was doing at the time, the daily newspapers of the day carried excellent fishing columns. There was the Daily News, of course, plus the Daily Mirror, the Long Island Press, the New York Evening Journal, the New York American (later to become the Journal-American), The Sun (failed about 1931), and the World-Telegram. The Herald Tribune and the New York Times also carried fishing columns but much of their contest was beyond the average fisherman's interest.

What we tens of thousands of fishermen were interested in was the bottom fishing activity—just as it is today. And those sports editors who realized this hired the best men for the job; fishermen all. Party boat skippers of the time cheerfully spent hard-earned dollars on advertising. This is one of the few instances in life when everyone concerned got value received, for—to a man—the fishermen were faithful.

I don't know if the name Fred Fletcher is familiar to you, but it seems quite unlikely unless you are from the old school. Fred was the fishing columnist for the Daily News. To fishermen of those long-gone days, Fred's word was the Bible for saltwater activities—just as Frank Keating's now sadly missed columns were gospel to many of today's fishermen. These two gentlemen were tops in their field, although I don't mean to take anything away from my friend Dick Cornish, or Jim Hurley and Jack Brawley who were also popular fishing scribes of the day. We shall never see their like again.

It wasn't unusual to meet these fellows on the fishing scene. Anyone might be waiting at the dock when your party boat returned, or perhaps fishing beside you at the rail. They shared the trials and tribulations of the bottom fishing game along with

those multitudes of other sinker bouncers. Those fishing scribes knew the score. And you couldn't con them.

I have knowledge of this from first-hand experience. I recall one time when several fishermen of my acquaintance attempted to do just that.

One weekend back in the fall of 1931 these fellows wrote up a fishing report to end all fishing reports. It was gleefully sent to Fred Fletcher of the Daily News who was, as I say, the most popular fishing reporter of his day. The report itself was well done, it was subtle and contained enough truth to make it sound plausible. Only those who had been through the fishing mill several times running could detect where truth ended and the con job took over. Those fellows had chosen their subject with great care—no question about that. But that report never saw the light of day in the Daily News. Call it sixth sense, call it what you will—you couldn't con Fred Fletcher. He knew!

Now let's change the subject. And with this change, let me say this: I've got a gripe. An important one, one that concerns all fishermen.

Why can't we have more accurate weather reports?

I realize that when we read a fishing report telling what went on the day before or the weekend before, it is foolproof—more or less, anyway. Weather reports, on the other hand, tell us only what we may expect in the next few hours, which indeed does make forecasting with any degree of accuracy difficult, to say the least. Nature has always held the deciding hand in this, and always will. This is not my gripe. My gripe is with TV's self-styled experts who dispense this knowledge.

Years ago before television and super-duper electronic weather maps, fishermen who wanted to know what weather to expect on their chosen fishing day, simply turned on their radios or checked local newspapers—and by so doing often received more accurate information than we poor schnooks of today. Certainly it can be said in all honesty that mistakes were made—after all Nature is still the boss (and let us hope she will always remain so). Everyone with an ounce of brains understands that weather forecasting is the most difficult of all the arts. But this is not my gripe. My gripe, as I've just said, is with those who should understand this.

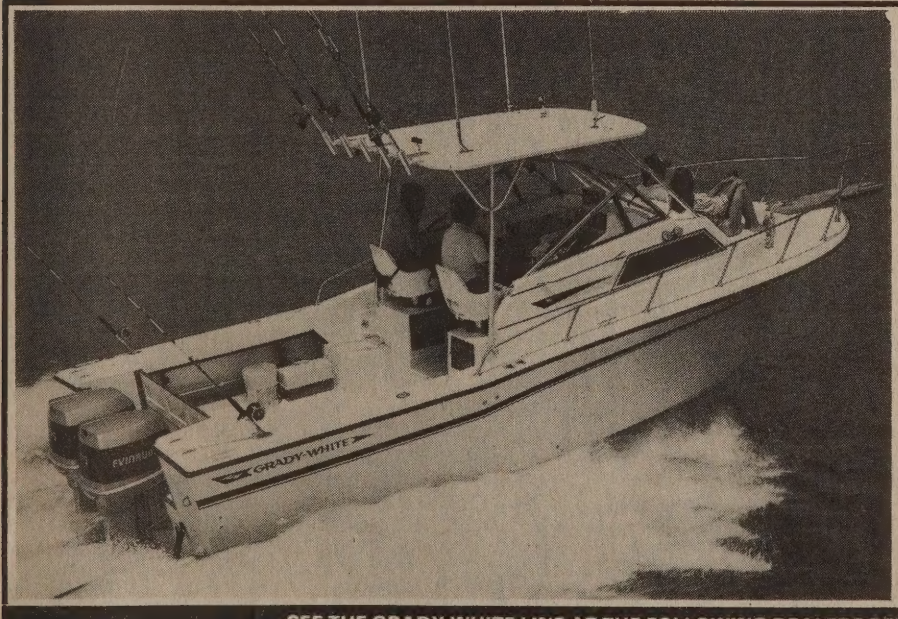
But what have we today?

Outside of a few weather reporters who sensibly keep a low profile (knowing, I suppose, that they have little knowledge of the subject), we have those who turn serious weather reporting into a fun thing. When they make a mistake, these fellows merely gloss over the boo-boos, giving their errors scant attention. (Some don't even do that.) But let them come up with an accurate forecast and there is as much attention given to it as if they had successfully foretold the Second Coming.

Weather forecasting isn't a plaything. Lives are often lost because someone foolishly took a "weather guarantee" as something that could be relied upon. Businesses are affected; especially does this apply to those of us who are in any way involved with outdoor activities. Weather forecasting should have no place for those who consider it a fun thing—ratings or no ratings. It is no place in which to pursue the almighty buck. But then TV in itself is no respecter of the human condition. For proof of that, just watch the many asinine programs they put on for our "enjoyment." That will cure you of any attempt at intelligence.."guaranteed."

You know, years ago during television's infancy we had a weatherman (notice I didn't say "weather reporter"—there is a difference) who was sponsored by Con Edison. This highly enlightened fellow would give us weather reports supplied by the U.S. Weather Bureau (just as it done today), but this gentleman put himself on the line many times. A favorite comment was: 'This is what the Weather Bureau says, but this is what I think will happen..." And more likely than not, this fellow hit it right on the nose. Here was one weatherman who enjoyed a huge, dedicated audience.

Why can't we have someone like that today? Huh?



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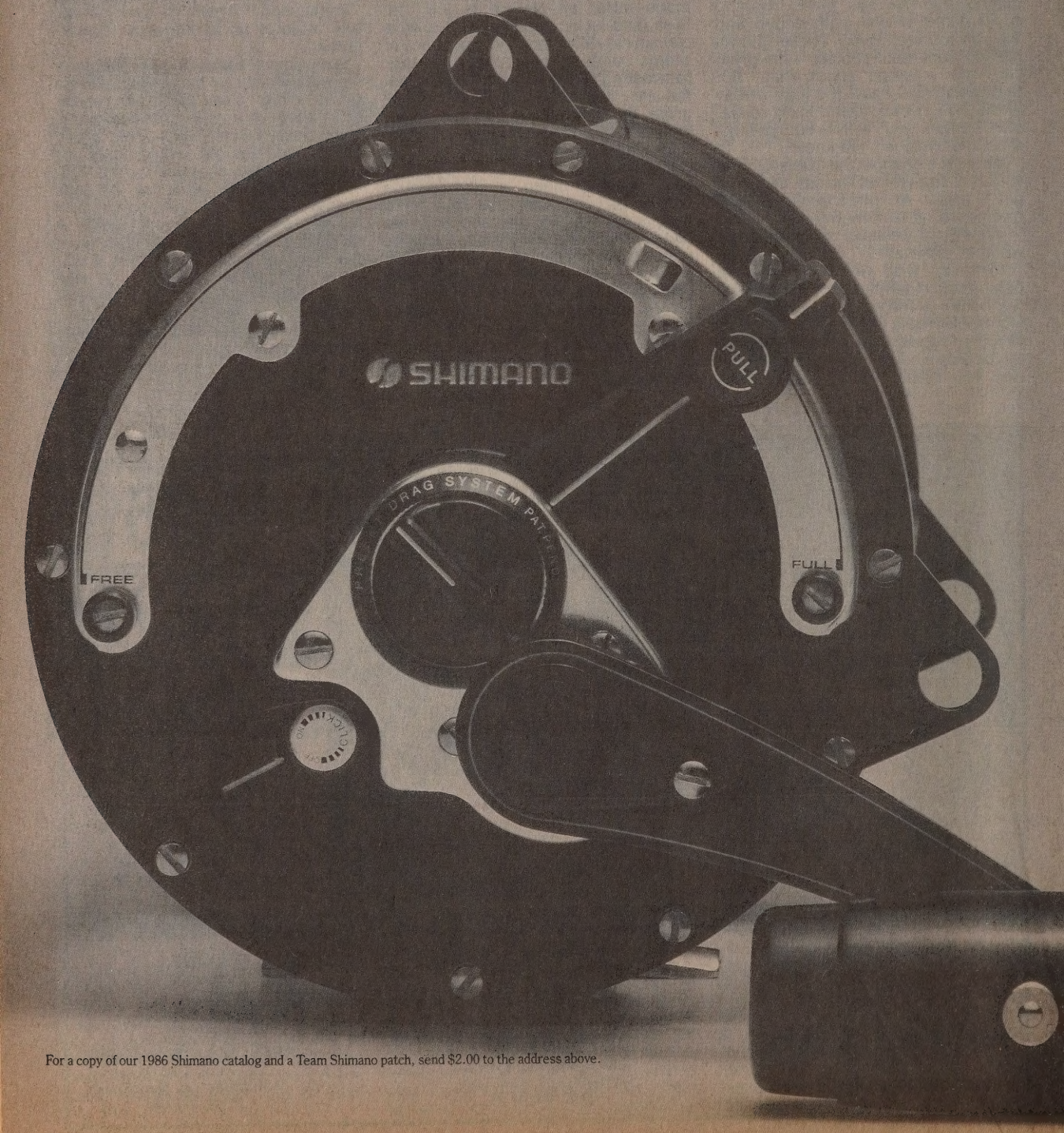

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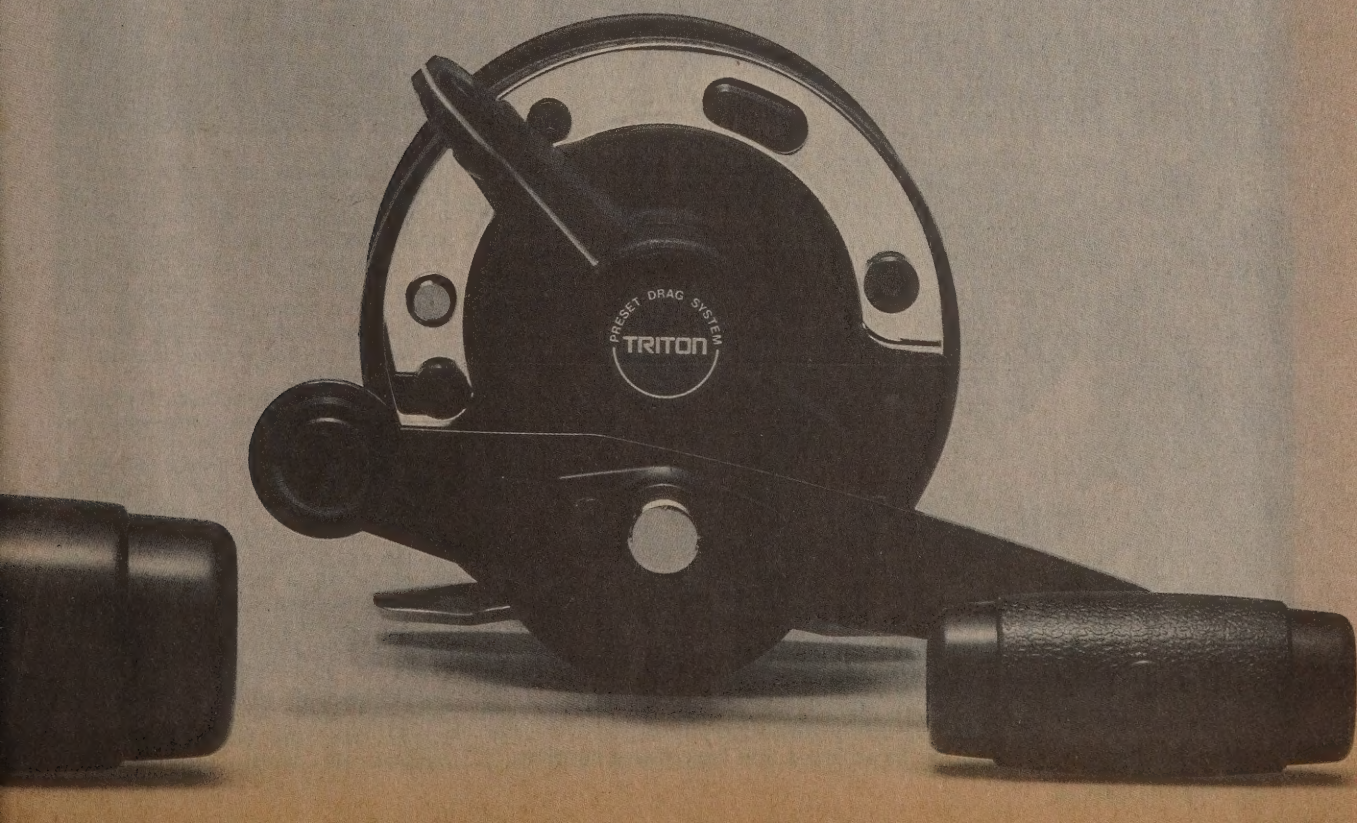

★★★ WEST END ★★★

SHORE FLOUNDER

by Vincent Badame

The popularity of Long Island's spring flounder to young and old cannot be measured. These fish offer every angler the challenge of seeking and catching them. On light tackle, in sheltered bays, these little fish are always willing to engage fishermen in scrappy tugs of war that's worth their weight in gold. Especially appealing, is that it's quite possible to rack up a substantial score without setting foot aboard a boat.

When shore fishing at this time of year, searching around at low tide will enable you to find dropoffs and holes that can be reached easily with bait-casting or spinning gear. There are countless spots where 20 foot casts will put you into flounder. The back bay marshes of Jamaica and Hewlett Bays contain many areas that are seldom fished. It will take but several trips to discover one or more for yourself. You will find that at times, outfishing the bridge and pier crowd only 100 feet away is quite common.

Light spinning tackle is ideal for those areas that lack strong currents.

The best marsh fishing is from three hours before low tide, and the first three to four hours of incoming tide. Usually my fish bucket contains quite a load to carry back to the car by this time, which is indeed good fishing for shore-based fishermen! Don't be surprised if rods get hit simultaneously, for when flounder gather in these holes, you can really work up a sweat hopping back and forth between rods, often for several hours at a stretch. Forty keeper flatties is not impossible when fishing with a couple of rods.

Equipment-wise, it is best to use two or three outfits (either conventional or spin types) with medium weight 7 foot rods capable of casting three ounce bank sinkers. Use 14 or 17 pound mono, as nicking due to shells or snags is often a problem in some areas. One sand spike for each rod is a must. A pair of waterproof boots will keep your feet dry and warm and don't forget a bucket.

In the bait department, I have found yellow dyed salt-free clam to be the top bait if you must cast a fair distance. Slice the clam into 1½ inch lengths, no wider nor thicker than 1/4 inches. Also freezing and defrosting tends to soften the clam strips, which makes this bait more appealing to larger flounder. A two or three hook rig with #6 Sproats or Eagle Claws, used with a sliding fish finder swivel to hold your sinker, permits flounder to swallow the bait without feeling the sinker's weight.

While I'm on the subject of rigging for flounder, let me share with you how to rig for better results.

Starting with two hooks tied by a snell knot to 12 lb. leader material. The leader length of one hook should be 18 inches long; the other, six inches. Next, tie a black 75 lb. test barrel swivel to the longest leadered hook using a basic Uni-Knot or Clinch Knot. This will keep the fish finder rig (with sinker attached) from sliding down to your hooks. Now tie a Surgeon's End Loop to the shorter leadered hook. Measure down six inches from the barrel swivel and tandem tie them together. (See

"Connecting Loops," Fisherman, Nov. 17, 1983.)

Instead of using a dropper loop to secure them, try this. Wrap the hook loop around the longest leadered hook six inches from the barrel swivel. Push the short leadered hook back through the loop and pull tight. Next, wrap the barrel swiveled leader end around the loop once and go under (through the center of) the wrap's loop. Pull tight. This forms an overhand knot to keep the hook's leader from sliding up or down to tangle the rig.

There are many advantages of this rig. If your rig snags, only the hooks will be lost as the 12 lb. leaders will break first. This will leave the barrel swivel, fish finder clip and sinker, still attached to your main line. Also included in the advantages is the elimination of those dreadful brass hook spreaders that scare more flounder away while collecting seaweed.

Referring to using bank mussels as bait: mussel meat is very soft, so short casts are called for. They are difficult to keep on a hook and will not withstand long casts. Dying the tougher clam meat yellow will fool flounder into thinking it is mussel, which they love to feast on.

Sometimes flounder are picky; if so, try this. Cast your baited rig and wait five minutes. Then attempt to set the hook with a sharp lift of the rod's tip. If no flounder is on, wait a bit and slowly turn your reel's handle five times, moving the rig along the bottom. What this does is raise clouds of mud and the moving rig may attract nearby flounder.

If you get no action, reel in and check your bait. Keep casting, either closer in or farther away, until you catch the first fish. When located, cast all rigs in the same area and be prepared. Usually casting one rig close to find the main pocket of flounder is wise. A few times I've found flatties feeding 1 feet away. This has happened to me more than once in Reynold's Channel.

This brings to mind a fruitful flounder trip that occurred last spring in reference to the above.

Arriving at Bannister Creek where it meets Reynolds Channel, I noticed that my favorite spot was already occupied by two other fishermen. Instead of unloading the fishing tackle to set up, I took a walk down to those anglers to see how many flounder were in their buckets. One angler named Bob had two flatties and the other none. This was a spot I usually catch two dozen big fat flounder by the top of high tide.

Watching those two anglers work over the area, I noticed both were casting way out to reach the deeper channel found here. This was their problem. On rising tides, flounder come into the closer shallows as the sun warms the water. This starts them feeding.

Directly after coming back from the car, with two outfits in hand, I set up camp on the right of those anglers to fish the last hour of incoming tide. Inside of five minutes, three flounder were bouncing away in my bucket. After another four fish Bob came over to see what I was doing. I told him he was casting too far out as the flounder were feeding in the nearby shallows. They missed them the whole incoming tide because they were overcasting.

Although I ended the day with 30 large flounder, the two other fishermen took my advice and finished off their day with a dozen flounder apiece.

At this time of year, there is one advantage to this type of fishing. It isn't necessary to leave the house in the early AM. The last three hours of a falling tide which occurs near noontime might produce a dozen keeper flatties. And it is possible to pick another dozen or two before the tide rises too much. It's best to pick days in March with high tides around 10AM, for you lose much needed bright daylight earlier.

When cabin fever gets to you in late February, don't complain about it being too cold, for when March arrives it is time for shoreline flounder. When the flatties hit your rigs, you will stay warm running from one rod to the next. This bit of activity is called the flounder stomp. Let's tune up the music!

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SHORE FLOUNDER

by Gerald Hahn

In the spring, anglers look for flounder at various places along the back sides of harbors and bays. These places, whether from a bridge, a town dock or pier, or the banks of an estuary, are nursery grounds for fish larvae and other microorganisms. The water is generally shallow and the bottom is fed by nutrients from spring runoffs which produce a rich mud. The current, moreover, moves at a leisurely pace. For the flounder, a poor swimmer, this kind of terrain provides ample food and at the same time, protection from predators.

To be sure, some fishing spots are more productive than others. Which is why experienced fishermen look for a spot where a confluence (two bodies of water) meet. The confluence of waterways forces nutrients to trickle down to the bottom the way upwellings in deep water force them to the surface. Many harbors and bays contain such a meeting place of waters in the form of a small inlet which leads to a creek or a river. A typical backwater inlet is small and quite narrow. Some are barely wide enough for boats to pass through, yet they sustain a surprising number of spring flounder.

Three backwater inlets come to mind: Hog Creek Point, South Ferry (Gleason Point) and Northwest Creek, in the East End of Long Island. They are typical of inlets in most other places. Hog Creek Point, located in Springs, is a narrow inlet connecting Hog Creek with Gardiner's Bay. Two small marinas are in back of the inlet, which is shored up with pilings along its two-block length. On the eastern entrance to the inlet a small rock jetty extends for about 30 feet into Gardiner's Bay. The second inlet, about four blocks west of the South Ferry in North Haven, has a similar configuration. It connects Shelter Island Sound with a creek in back. This inlet, somewhat smaller than Hog Creek Point, is also shored up with pilings. It is so narrow, however, that a sand bar forms every year on the west side, which is not accessible. Boats can barely pass through, but flounder, stimulated by a rather strong current, certainly can. On the east side of the inlet, the pilings extend for about half a block into Shelter Island Sound. The third inlet at Northwest Creek is somewhat different. It has been left in a natural state. On both sides, Barcelona Point and Northwest Woods, the beach simply spills into the inlet, which connects Northwest Harbor with Northwest Creek. This inlet, moreover, is not straight. It curves sharply along its narrow stretch, and consequently, has a rougher current than the other inlets. Even so, the channel is deep enough for boats to pass. Nutrient rich, this whole area contains one of the richest scallop beds in Long Island.

Seaworms, either blood or sand, are a favorite bait of shorebound flatfish fans.

Having fished at these inlets, and others, many times, I generally find that the most productive spots for flounder are toward the back. At Hog Creek, for example, several deep holes are located just beyond the pilings, where the mouth of the creek meets the inlet. Similarly, at South Ferry, flounder are usually found in back, at the mouth of the creek. And the same is true for Northwest Creek. Casting to the buoy, which is just behind the swift current in the inlet, puts you in touch with spring flounder.

One reason why spring flounder are so fond of these inlets is that the bottom turns to mud along the back side. Nutrients are swept through the inlet and flounder station themselves here to their advantage in gaining a meal. By contrast, the front side of the inlet usually has sand bottom and

a strong current, neither of which is conducive to the good life of a typical spring flounder. It must be said, however, that there are times when large sea flounder make forays into these inlets, and they favor the strong currents. Still, most of the fish are in back, and if you want to increase your catch, find a back bay inlet and then explore its back side.

A nice thing about fishing a back bay inlet is that you can use light tackle. By contrast, at town docks and bridges, you need heavier gear simply to hoist the fish to the high elevation. The small inlets, however, are generally only a few feet above sea level and in the case of Northwest Creek, practically at sea level. Thus, you can fish with a 6 foot spinning rod matched with a small reel comparable to the Penn 450 spooled with 8 lb. test. In fact, here you can resort to freshwater gear or to an ultra-light outfit, such as a limber 5 foot rod and a reel comparable to the Shimano C-1000, which holds 165 yards of 4 lb. test.

When the current is sluggish at these places, a couple of split shot or a small clinch sinker will hold bottom. Two #12 Chestertown hooks, or beaks or Sproats of comparable size, are snelled to 12 inch leaders of 20 lb. test. The hooks are then tied in tandem, the end of one snell to the middle of the other. A small snap swivel, which is tied to the end of the running line with an improved clinch knot, secures the snelled hooks. Then the split shot are crimped to the line a few inches above the swivel. When the current is stronger, a one ounce bank sinker is clipped to the snap swivel and the rig holds bottom.

Most fishermen use bloodworms or sand worms for spring flounder. However, there are other baits worth trying. Earthworms, which are less costly than seaworms, are effective baits, although they tend to wash out quickly in the salt. Even better is a ribbed mussel, which at some inlets may be gathered along the bank of the creek. Bank mussels are a prime bait in the spring. If they weren't so effective, party boats in the East End, where some of the largest snowshoes are taken every spring, would not provide them as bait. The mussel is difficult to handle, however. It is extremely soft, and if not properly secured to the hook, it falls apart on the first cast. One way to toughen this bait is to open the shell and dry the meat in the sun for a brief period. Then remove the meat with a clam knife and impale and twist the firm part several times on the hook. Push this section up the shank and wrap the soft meat around the bend of the hook. Finish off by impaling the remaining hard part near the barb. Worms, of course, are simply cut into small pieces and threaded on the hook, with a small amount dangling below the point. Some people find skimmer clams effective on flounder although for shore fishing in the spring I find them inferior to the other baits mentioned. Clams increase their potential when dyed a bright red or yellow with artificial food coloring. The clam is then cut in thin slices and rigged in the same manner as mussels.

Sometimes a combination of two baits is better than a single offering. Try a worm below a mussel. At the least, the combination will hold the mussel on the hook for a longer period. Other effective combinations consist of an artificial sweetened with a natural bait. For example, hooks with a plastic corn kernel on top, or with yellow hair, or even a tiny soft plastic tail such as the ones made by Mr. Twister, have all taken flounder when sweetened with mussel or worm baits. And since flounder seem attracted to yellow things, some fishermen paint their sinkers this color as well.

Another advantage to fishing a back bay inlet is that the casting distance is not great. In a narrow waterway, moreover, the shore-bound fisherman can chum the fish to the baited rig. At South Ferry, for example, I often gather some bank mussels from the creek. After crushing the mussels, I mix them with sand and toss the stuff to the upcurrent side of the rig. Other fishermen make use of corn, cat food and even broken egg shells to attract flounder. For all of these ingredients resemble the suspended microorganisms that glisten like jewels in shallow water. Chumming here may also be performed with a stuffed chum pot flipped into the narrow waterway and tied to a piling.

Spring flounder are not difficult to catch although there are days when the fish are sluggish. After casting the rig and chumming, the angler has little to do but wait for a flounder to hook itself. If the fishing is slow and nibbles are faint, however, the rig should be retrieved slowly, with frequent pauses along the way. Raising and lowering the rod a foot or so also helps attract flounder, because the sinker bounces on the bottom and dislodges food particles from the mud. Bouncing the chum pot, of course, accomplishes the same thing.

At most back bay inlets the incoming tide is better than the outgoing; in places, the water may be too shallow for productive fishing during the tail end of the ebb tide. Time your fishing for a few hours before and after high slack. Good flounder fishing begins in April and peaks from May to early June.

Unfortunately, spring often brings variable winds and periods of heavy rainfall. The shallow waters become roiled and the fishing is poor. Wait a few days after a storm before heading to one of these spots. And remember, there is no need to rush here at the crack of dawn. In fact, in early spring it is better to wait a few hours for the sun to warm the shallow waters and get the flounder stirring. Just make sure the spot you select is on the back side of a back bay inlet.

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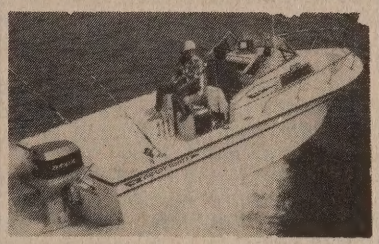

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TOP TROUT BAITS

by Lou Truppi

Presentation is the key to scoring with these favorite trout baits.

Early season trout fishing is synonymous with the use of bait. Cold water spawns lethargic, slow biting fish that must be practically teased into striking your bait.

Most northeast trout anglers must learn quickly to adapt to early season cold water angling methods or go home with an empty creel.

Until recently, a single school of thought governed most trout anglers' techniques. Certainly water and weather combine to govern angling styles, but it's the angler's choice of bait that really galvanizes success. Unless we have a warm, dry spring with low, clear water the following methods can be followed with qualified success.

An angler's choice of tackle for trout fishing in general is best left up to individual taste. However, ultralight rods 5 to 6½ feet matched with ultralight reels that hold 100 yds. of 4# test mono are good starters. Remember, the longer rods cast easier especially when little or no weight is used for that extra quiet presentation. Incorporate these outfits with size 8 through 12 hooks that you should strive to keep razor sharp and you will be off to a sound start. Whatever you choose in the tackle line, try to keep it light as possible. Small baits coupled with light lines will garner most hits.

Back to your choice of baits. Spring trout, especially the fresh stocked hatchery fish are suckers for many baits, but if I could only fish one I would settle for salmon eggs. Worms, salmon eggs, silver shiners, fat head minnows, night crawlers, mealworms and ordinary minnows can all be classed as spring trout baits. Some, of course, are better than others, but all produce at given times.

One reason I like the eggs is that they catch all species of trout. They'll take fresh stocked holdovers of wild trout without too much effort.

Rigging your bait properly is as important as tackle selection and presentation. Salmon eggs can be rigged several ways to maintain their top producing qualities. First off, I like the jumbo size eggs. Egg colors are again a matter of personal choice. The top producers in my opinion are the colors that work for you. White, red, orange, and pink are some colors I've used over the years. I prefer the glo tones when I am faced with off color water conditions. The white eggs seem to work under a myriad of circumstances.

When selecting your eggs, make sure you test their quality first. The tyro egg fisherman is not always aware that not all eggs are in top shape. If the jars become frozen en route to the store, then the eggs are rendered useless. Once frozen they thaw out to mush. All body and hooking qualities are lost. So when purchasing a jar, ask the salesperson if you can remove the lid to test the egg quality.

Eggs that are in good shape maintain a soft, yet rubbery like texture. You can pinch them between your fingers without the egg bursting. This texture will allow you to pass a hook through the egg without destroying its makeup. Needless to say, it will stay on the hook much longer and allow you to cast and fish fast water without fear of losing your bait.

You might find some eggs to be hard as rocks. This is the other side of the coin. Like the eggs that are too soft, the hard eggs are also problems. Fish will often detect this rock like texture and spit out the offering without you ever realizing you've had a hit. Egg selection is not difficult. Most reputable fishing shops strive to ensure that they purchase a high quality salmon egg to sell to their customers. In most cases, the proprietors have tested the eggs quality when their initial spring buys are made. It never hurts to spot check yours; this ensures their quality. Don't forget to store your unused eggs properly in the off-season.

This is a simple process which dictates the use of the family refrigerator. Eggs stored here and turned over every couple of months will stay fresh for better than a year. Be careful not to expose the eggs to extreme hot or cold temperatures. Extremes of this nature will ruin the eggs' texture and render them useless. One more point I'd like to make concerning the eggs. Try to purchase the oil pack jars. The oil gives off a scent that attracts fish when strikes are far between and could tempt tight-mouth trout into striking.

When rigging the salmon egg, choose a hook size commensurate with the size of the egg. What I mean by this is if the hook can be hidden in the egg with only a small portion of its shank protruding, then it's a proper size. Reluctant, fished over trout will quickly learn to size up a signifcant hook protrusion and not strike. If at all possible, bury the entire hook inside the egg with the point barely hidden under the surface. A hook hidden in this manner will pop through the egg's thin skin when a strike occurs. The point should then embed easily into the jaw of the fish for a solid hook-up.

If your hook is a little large, then pass the barb through the entire egg (careful not to rupture the eye), and press the hook in place around the outside of the egg's body. The bend will follow the egg's contour with the point being placed close to the surface for swift penetration.

Many anglers choose to hook on two eggs instead of one. The method most commonly used to accomplish this is simple enough. Pass one egg completely over the hook onto the line above the hook. Let this egg rest against the upturned eye of the hook. Now simply bury the hook into the second egg as I've described before. Now you have a dual egg setup still only requiring a single hook. This setup can be deadly in a slow deep pool where you opt not to use any weight. The second egg will add that little extra weight for casting and drifting deep enough to realize strikes.

Note here that hatching trout and holdovers take along the bottom similar to a steelhead. The bait must get down to ensure hits.

Salmon eggs can be fished on normal bait holder style hooks, but I prefer the short shank upturned eye gold plated egg hooks. I've found that size #8 through #12 will fill 90 percent of my needs. I select the up-eyed version with a baitholder slice in its shank for a couple of reasons. First, the bait holders barb will hold my egg better and secondly, the up-eyed hook seems to penetrate easier than other models. Forged hooks are not needed on most streams unless big fish are to be encountered. In fact, the slightly lighter wire hooks will ensure a gentle rolling drift especially in deep slow holes.

Worms, whether they're the garden variety night crawlers, or mealworms

form the nucleus of spring baits for a multitude of species—trout being numero uno. The worm fisherman must again be attuned to hook size, presentation and rigging techniques. My experience has been that a worm should be fished similarly to salmon egg baits where trout are concerned. A lightly hooked wriggling specimen will get moe results than the over-weighted gob laying on bottom. Certain species will seek out the latter, but it is a rare trout choice. Trout are used to engulfing a moving bait and this is what you, the angler, should adhere to. Worm size can be important for several reasons. Take, for instance, an oversized night crawler, six inches or so long, dangling generously from both end of your hook. A bait such as this could be nipped at both ends without you even getting a shot at hooking that trour. Remember this frequently occurs when the trout are fished hard in the early part of the season. Many are stung by anglers hooks or succumb to caution due to all the fishermen parading about the stream. They no longer engulf all baits as if if were their last meal, but react very wary indeed to all but the most natural drifted baits that swing past. So, in this instance, that oversized crawler would go untouched. You would continue on downstream if you're sure the pool was clean. It pays to carry several size garden worms or medium size crawlers if you want to catch more trout. Oftentimes all that is required is to switch the size of your bait to obtain a strike. Other times you'll be required to re-rig. Perhaps selecting a smaller hook coupled with finer leader or line. Many of these methods will succeed while others go virtually fishless.

Many anglers stymie their chances of catching more and bigger trout on worms by simply overlooking the obvious. That is properly hooking that worm to gain the most natural drift possible. My experience has led me to conclude that a single worm hooked once through the body is best.

Utilizing this method enables the bait to flow naturally with the current. Either end of the bait is free to wiggle and entice strikes. A cautious fish chomping on either end will not feel the hook and spit the bait out. Once picked up the angler need only to slacken his line for a couple of seconds and strike.

Worms can be gathered and stored prior to their use. In fact, with a little pre-season effort, you can store enough for most of the season.

Various companies offer commercially made worm boxes and fill. When properly used, the worms will last for months.

Simple boxes can be homemade from various woods and filled with a mixture of peat moss and dirt. Kept damp and stored in a cool place, the bait will thrive. Night crawlers can be stored with garden worms, but meal worms should be refrigerated due to their emerging nature when brought into warm temperatures. They will also last for a few weeks at a time, if stored properly.

A fresh bait will always outfish a half dead motionless bait especially if odor is apparent. The exception might be catfishing or a similar endeavor. Trout like fresh live bait and will go out of their way to get it. So should you.

Worm presentation is much like salmon egg fishing. Use as little a weight as possible to lightly bounce bottom. A properly weighted presentation will flow slightly slower than the current maintaining bottom contact throughout the drift.

Minnows, whether live or dead will take trout. Those indigenous to the waterway you are fishing are usually the best choice. However, I found the

(Continued on next page.)

A cautious approach and a natural presentation fooled these rainbows and lone brook trout.

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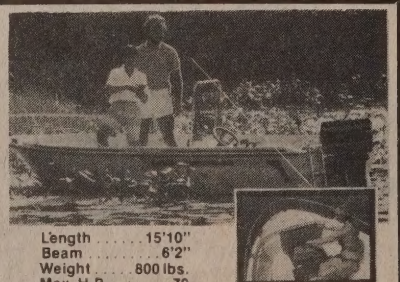

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fatheads or sculpin minnow to turn on trout everywhere. The minnow like the worms are best when fished live. Preserved or fresh dead minnows will hold their own on many a stream. You'll note as the season progresses, minnow baits will produce better than during early spring. Most hatchery trout have very rarely fed on or for that matter, even seen minnows prior to their liberation. Once they have lived in a stream for a couple of months, this will change fast. Holdover trout will smash minnows without hesitation. In fact, the bigger the holdover fish, the more he tends to feed on this bait. Again, the minnows should be weighted just enough to drift with the current. If possible, try to keep it light enough so they may swim without too much difficulty. The more they dart, the more they attract strikes. A nervous or moving minnow is generally a prelude to a strike. Streamside wading cans complete with shoulder straps make for easy minnow handling. Water should be changed frequently to keep the bait fresh as possible. The warmer the day, the more frequently you should change water.

The preserved or salted minnows will last a long time if not exposed to excessive heat. Check and smell frequently to ensure they are in good shape.

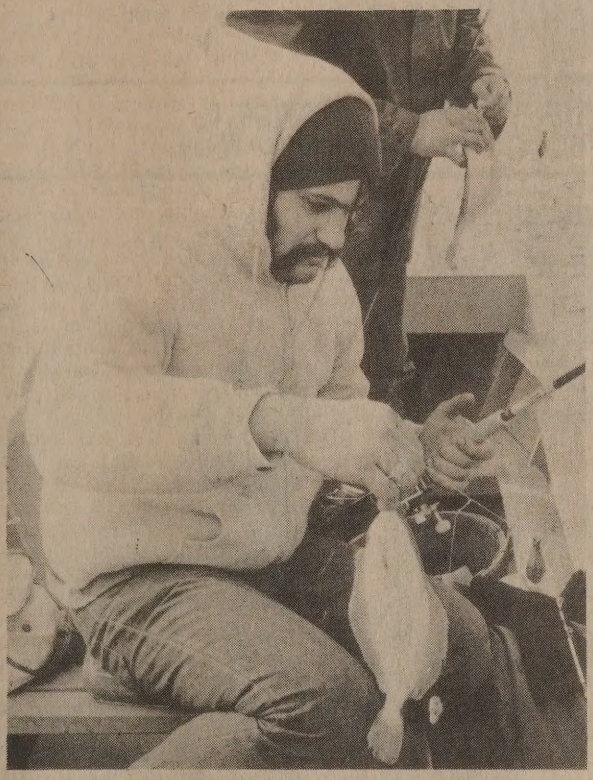
As with all baits, strive to present the minnows in the most natural manner with light leaders, lines and small hooks. Don't impale a two inch brook minnow on a size four bait hook and wonder why you can't get a hit. Keep all terminal tackle relative in size to your baits and more hits will follow.

Fly and spinning outfits are the most appropriate for stream trout fishing. The fly rods should be at least 7½ feet long and call for a five weight line. The longer rods permit more line control on the drift. On most small streams the angler will never have to cast the fly rod but merely spot drift his bait through likely looking holes. Always strive to work upstream and work on short accurate presentations. To maintain this control I like my leaders to be about a foot longer than my rod. Depending on water conditions I use 1# to 3# tapered leaders.

On larger streams most fly rodders should learn to roll cast. This cast consists of nothing more than inverting the line without lifting it from the water. It's quiet and you don't have to worry about getting caught in a tree on the back cast one would normally perform. Since most small to medium streams can be surrounded with heavy growth, this cast is a must to master.

It pays to dress down. I like camo clothes when fishing the small waters. Keep a low profile and stay off high spots unless the water below is swift enough to cover your moves. Pay attention to detail and try to make every cast count. Work upstream when possible and cover the stream thoroughly.

MORICHES FLOUNDER DERBY



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SPRING RUN COD AT CARTWRIGHT

by Capt. Bill Ricca

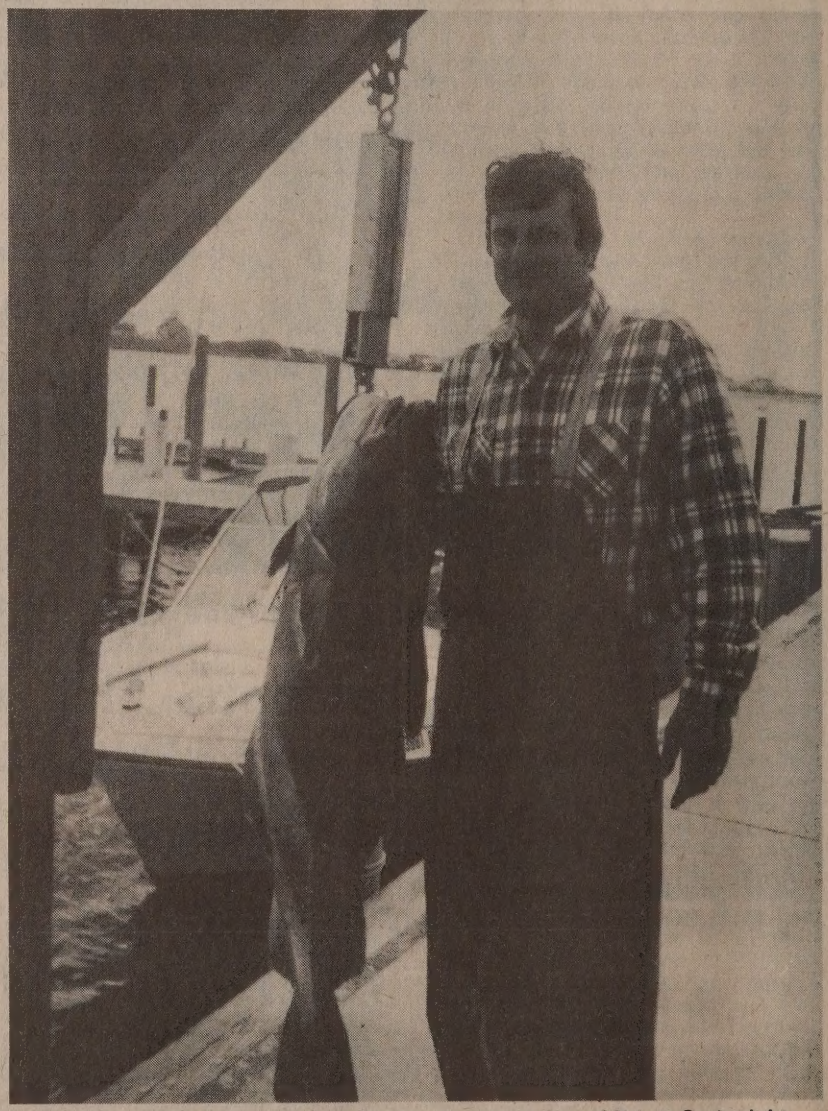
Montauk's famed Cartwright Grounds provide a bountiful harvest of cod through April and into May.

The Cartwright Grounds are located six to seven miles south/southeast of the Montauk Point Lighthouse. The area is divided into two specific fishing spots: Inner and Outer Cartwright. The water depth varies from the high 80s at Inner Cartwright to about 110 feet at the Outer Grounds. For years Cartwright has been noted for its winter and spring cod and for its abundance of late summer and fall jumbo bluefish.

The bottom consists mainly of gravel and rock and is generally void of the underwater peaks and valleys that are more prevalent just a little north and east between Montauk and Block Island.

What makes these fish return to this area year after year can be summed up in one word: "food." The bottom in this area is loaded with small crabs, lobster and snails, etc. In addition, great concentrations of bergalls, small blackfish, sea bass, sea robins, conger ells, bunker, herring, sand eels and other bait fish inhabit and flourish on this plateau.

Here, fishing for cod goes on all winter and into spring. Peak fishing occurs in March and April and at times, into May. As waters warm, cod will move offshore into deeper water. During March, fishing is restricted to the party boats which sail weekends and a limited number of weekdays. However, in late March and early April, the charter boat fleet begins to cash in on some fine fishing. The best fishing is usually in the earlier part of the season. However, this is also the time of year that weather (bad weather) could have an adverse effect on your trip. Changing seasons bring on changing weather patterns generally accompanied by strong winds and unsettled weather. This is a chance that we must take when planning any fishing trip, especially at this time of year.



Author with a 50 pound cod taken during spring of '85 at Cartwright.

Fishing for cod at Cartwright is not really that different from codfishing elsewhere. However, since this is not wreck fishing, heavy tackle is not needed. Medium to medium heavy action rods, capable of handling 10 to 12 oz. sinkers or 6 to 8 oz. jigs are best suited for this fishing. Rods, 6½ to 7½ feet in length with a good revolving reel spooled with 30 lb. test line will do fine. For this type of fishing, I like the Penn 140M Squidder, the fast retrieve Penn 3/0 (112H) and the Daiwa 50H reels. Hooks are a matter of personal preference, but my choice is a 5/0 or 6/0 beak style bait holder hook. My hooks are snelled on 16" leaders. I'll almost always use two hooks. They will be tied one above the other about 3½ to 4 feet apart. The lower hook will be about 12 to 14 inches above the sinker. Fresh skimmer clams are the universal bait for cod and I have found that contrary to many opinions, it is

not necessary to really load up each hook with several skimmers. In fact, there are times when a half of a skimmer clam on each hook will do better than a whole one, especially if you switch to a smaller hook such as a 3/0 or 5/0. The cod taken during the spring average about 8 lbs.; however, there are enough 15 to 30 lb. fish around to make things interesting. Cod in the 50 lb. class are occasionally taken here, but are the exception. Fishing will be done either at anchor or drifting. A lot depends on the weather, tide and how thick the fish are.

Since the bottom is so paved with baitfish, it is possible at times to jig cod. This type of fishing consists of lowering a diamond jig and surgical tube rig to the bottom and simply reeling it back up once it hits. Since cod are generally a bottom feeder, it is not necessary to reel the jig all the way to the surface every time, but rather only about 20 turns are necessary. It's advisable, however, to check your jig for weeds or tangles at regular intervals. The speed at which you retrieve your jig is critical. Cod, unlike bluefish, require a slow to moderate rate of retrieve. Once a bump is felt you should immediately set the hook. Jigs that are popular are the Ava, Bridgeport Slab jig, Sekora and the Tri-Fin Teardrop Jig, each in either 6 or 8 oz. These jigs may or may not be adorned with a tube. Where the tube really comes into play is as a teaser. This teaser is tied 2½ to 3 feet above the jig by means of a dropper loop. You will find that more cod will be taken on the teaser tube than the jig. Tube colors vary, but red, green, black and white seem to do best. Cod, while not in a fighting class with bluefish, do give a respectable accounting of themselves. However, it is at the dinner table that, in my opinion, they reign as king. There is nothing better than a fresh cod fillet broiled in butter.

For those who own trailer boats, Cartwright should be fished with a great deal of caution. This is the Atlantic Ocean, not some back bay or harbor. To reach the fishing grounds one must pass through waters such as Shagwong, Pollock Rip and the area near the Light known as the Elbow. On fine summer days, these areas are generally no problem for a large seaworthy trailer boat. However, early spring is a different situation as strong winds and wind against tide situations can make the area a nightmare. While it could be "fishable" offshore, getting there and back could be a problem.

Being equipped with the proper navigational, communications and fish finding equipment will not only get you to and from the fishing grounds, but will soon afford you that margin of safety needed whenever venturing out of the inlet. Those without their own boats, can rely on the expertise of charter and open boat captains to enjoy this fine spring action.

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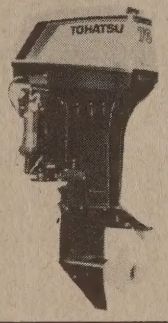

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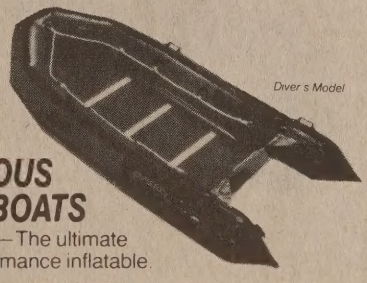

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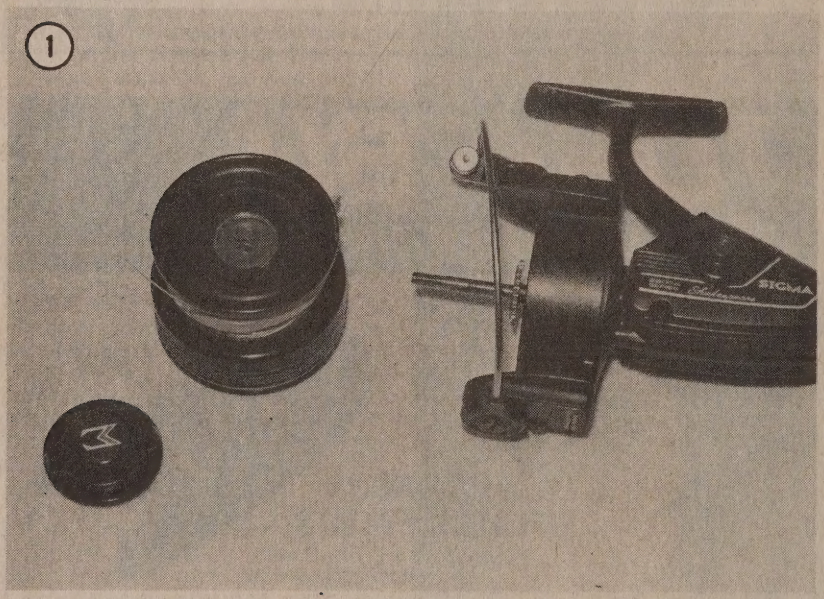
TUNE YOUR TACKLE FOR SPRING

Part One — *by Pete Barrett*

Spending a little time on preventive maintenance now, will save you a lot of grief during the season.

That spring feeling is in the air and the approaching season brings promise of good fishing opportunisties; perhaps a chance at a trophy fish so big that we don't have to exaggerate about it; perhaps a few days when the fish just seem to jump on anything we put in front of their noses.

Like the Boy Scouts it pays to be prepared. You never know ahead of time when that lunker bass or huge mako will hit, or when the sea trout or bluefish will go on a feeding frenzy. If you're fumbling with stubborn tackle while that big fish crashes the bait or fish are bustin' all around, you may miss out on some good fishing.



The value of keeping tackle operating perfectly is obvious to every fisherman, yet few of us ever really enjoy servicing what we use. Would you rather be out fishing for flounder or trout, or be down in the basement chasing tiny bail springs all over the floor? Unfortunately, we do have to get our gear ready, and there is no better time for it than right now before the fast paced fishing of the summer.

My own service program for reels begins in the fall. Before being put away, they were rinsed with water, sprayed with WD-40 or CRC, wiped clean, drag tensions backed off to zero and then stored in their original boxes. While manufacturers caution against washing reels under a high pressure hose because it drives salt and dirt particles inside the reel, I've found that a light misting spray from the hose helps dissolve the heavy salt particles and then the spray oil washes the residue away.

Before the reels go back on the rods in the spring, a more extensive cleaning and inspection is called for. The following three-part series will describe the basics of getting a spinning, conventional and big game reel back in service, ready for the coming year's fishing. Despite several years experience of servicing reels at Garcia and at a tackle shop, I still have extensive repairs done by a skilled tackle shop repairman. If your inspection shows excess corrosion, broken parts, bad gears or rusted bearings you may want to take the reel to a tackle shop for a complete overhaul.

The tools required are basic and, depending on the particular reel being serviced, you will need: reel instruction booklet, screwdrivers, reel wrench, tube of Teflon reel grease, tube of reel oil and can of spray oil.

The choice of cleaning solutions will vary depending on your preference. Heavy duty liquid soaps will cut and remove grease, but leave a bad mess in the sink. Small amounts of acetone, gasoline, carbon tetrachloride and kerosene will also work (all you need

is an ounce or two), but must be used in a well ventilated area and with no smoking. Be careful with plastic parts since some of these solvents will dissolve plastic. If you are not sure, test a small part ahead of time. A brush with stiff, firm bristles helps scrub away grease and dirt. A soft towel should be used to dry the parts and another towel can be used to cradle the reel while you work on it, preventing scratches while being serviced.

SPINNING REELS

Photo One: Remove the handle and spool. Spray oil on handle knob and handle folding mechanism. Liberally coat all external surfaces with a coating of spray oil. Using a stiff brush, remove dirt and salt residue. Dry with soft cloth.

Photo Two: Remove drag washers. Fiber washer should be replaced, metal washers cleaned and polished with cloth or a piece of cardboard from a matchbook. Rub the washers until they are shiny and smooth. Felt and leather washers need to be lubricated with a light oil before re-assembly. Teflon and fiber washers need no lubrication. Before re-assembling the drag, remove the old mono line, then spray the spool liberally with oil, wipe with cloth to dry, cleaning all grooves and corners of the spool. Re-assemble the drag. A small amount of grease should be applied to the click spring and washer on the underside of the spool.

Photo Three: Spray oil into the hinged bail mounts to flush out sand, grit, dirt and salt build-up. If the roller line guide does not move smoothly, remove it and clean the roller and shaft. Replace and lubricate with a drop of oil. Be sure the bail closes with a hard snap. If bail wire is bent out of shape, try bending the wire slightly. If this doesn't work, see a reel repair shop.

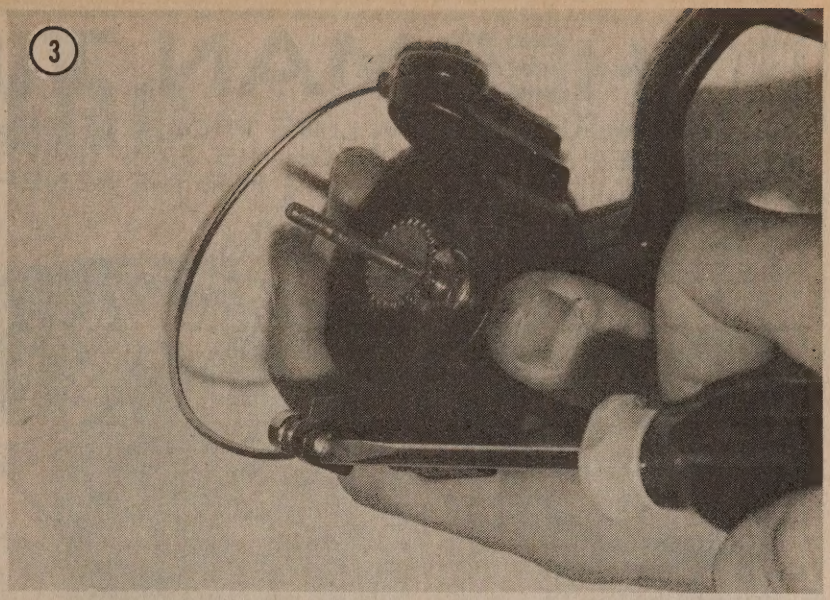
Spray oil inside the rotating head or around the rotor if the reel is the skirted spool type. Make sure all springs and levers are working properly, then dry with cloth.

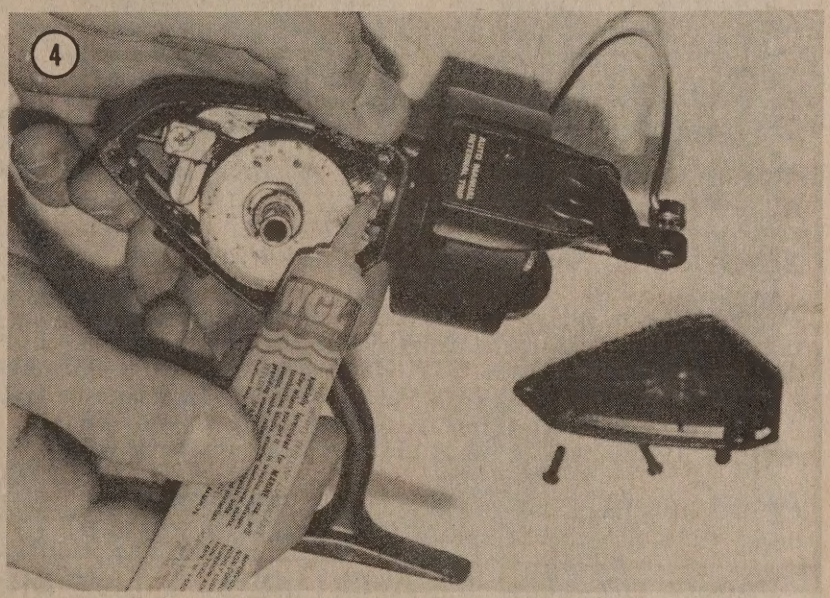
Photo Four: Remove the side plate. Remove large drive gear. If you use solvents, hold reel housing so solvents drain away from the bearings and rotating head. This washes the dirt away from these parts, not into them. Check operation of anti-reverse spring and sliding lever. Relubricate with grease. If you fish saltwater, it is helpful to coat all internal parts with a thin layer of grease.

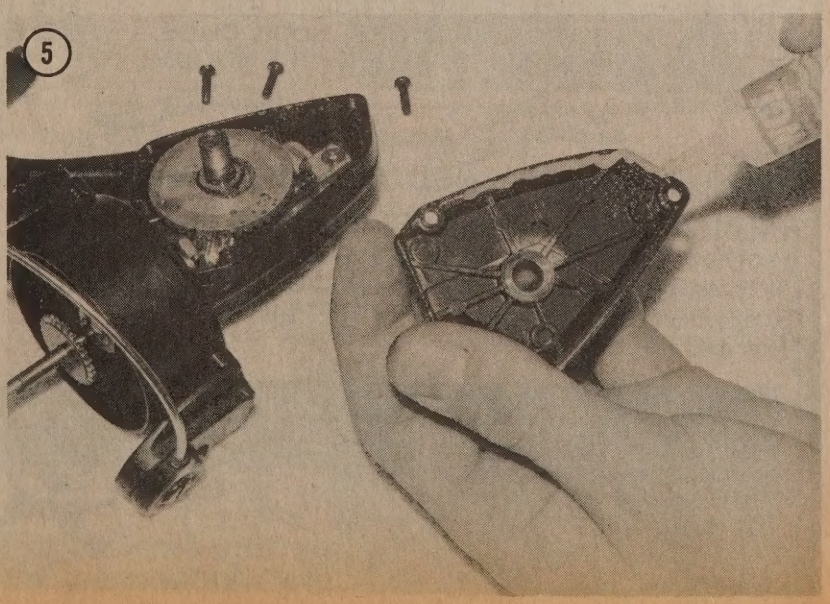
Photo Five: Clean side plate. Relubricate the gear bushing, then lay a bead of grease around all the edges of the side plate. When screwed in place the grease forms a watertight seal.

Complete the re-assembly by mounting the handle and spool. Check to see that all parts move smoothly and that there is no binding or scraping of moving parts.

If you run into trouble, check with your tackle shop for advice, parts and help.







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BY FRED GUARDINEER

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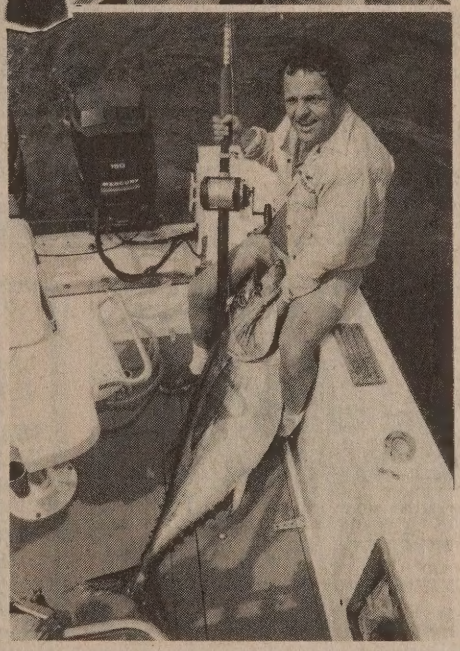
SPINNERS ARE A GOOD SUBSTITUTE FOR LIVE MINNOWS AS ARE MINNOW-TYPE PLUGS

WET FLIES, NYMPHS AND STREAMERS ARE A GOOD BET WHEN WORKED ON OR NEAR THE BOTTOM.

Stack the Odds In Your Favor This Season!



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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

While cod catches remain on the slow side, a few large cod were caught before nasty weekend weather limited fishermen. The good news is that flounder catches have increased on the east end, with many fish, some of snowshoe size, caught in traditional early spots: Heady Creek, South Ferry, Napague, Lake Montauk.

MONTAUK

Captain Jay Rigano of the charter boat **Lori Jay** will not sail until further notice due to the unexpected sudden death of his 26-year-old son, Joseph. We were saddened to learn of this tragedy and wish to express our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the Rigano family.

John Giralomo of Port Jefferson Station, reported that jigs and tubes took most of the fish, both cod and pollock, on last week's "Captains Choice" four day trip on the **Viking Starship**. Although a medical emergency necessitated a layover at Nantucket to allow a passenger to leave the boat, John caught 65 cod, including one of 43 pounds which took the second place pool. First place was taken by Tom Citek with a 57 pound cow. Other catches included 51 cod by Doc Shepard, 48 by Arthur Kreiss (who also caught a 42 pound wolf fish), and Joe Medward with 83 cod. Red or green tubes apparently caught the best. Giralomo claimed that most of the cod were under ten pounds and that uncounted numbers of three to five pound pollock were also boated. He has already booked a spot on the next trip to Georges Banks which leaves the evening of April 14th, returning on the 17th. There are a few spots left. Call the **Viking** office for information.

Captain Greg Beacher's new boat, **Dawn**, is expected at Salivar's Dock on April 15th. Captain Beacher is booking four man charters for giant tuna and offering an opportunity for the ultimate experience. Captain Beacher has caught 101 giant tuna during the past three seasons. Call him for available dates.

Joan at **Captain's Cove Marina** stated that a high percentage of charter boats are now in the water and ready for the spring run. Weekend winds and rain restricte cod fish catches, however at least one charter captain tucked into Block Island Harbor where his charter loaded up with flounder.

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Aaron at **Star Island Yacht Club** is ready for a slam bang season and has everything a boater will need to ready his boat for the season. A look at the low prices on the fuel pumps should put a smile on most of your faces.

Captain Tom at **Gone Fishing Marina** admired a beautiful catch of 130 large flounder caught late last week by two anglers on a marina based boat. Many of the fish went over the four pound mark on the marina scale with the location of the catch given as Napeague. Since cod fishing is still a little on the slow side, with bad weekend weather not helping the catch, several marina boats switched to flounder both at Block Island and Lake Montauk with success.

Mark at **Montauk Marine Basin** pointed out that lots of flounder have been caught from local docks and by boat in the lake, with many blackfish outside picking up the slack on some cod fish trips.

Henry Uihlein had a few skiffs out this week, in all kinds of weather, flounder fishing in Lake Montauk. Although catches varied, the size of the flounder ranged from one to two and a half pounds. Some catches brought into **Uihlein's Boat Rentals** the past week included fifteen flatties, one of three pounds, by Richie Hung, fifteen flounder in a couple of hours by Elliot on Wednesday, John Kessler and his family with eighteen, and Alan Klug and his son, from Ronkonkoma with a nice catch. Heavy chumming and pounding the bottom is necessary, as is a moving tide. Mussels, clams and worms were the bait.

The charter boat **Pronto** searched for cod on her first trips of the season over the weekend meeting tough fishing due to strong wind and rough sea conditions. However, over a dozen cod were caught at Cox's Ledge by Ken Kiddlick of New Jersey despite the conditions. Saturday's charter with John DeLuca switched to flounder in the Block Island area because of sea conditions, returning with 52 nice flatties. Two of the fish went over three and a half pounds at the dock, with the remainder ranging from three quarters to two and a half pounds. Captain Mike Bentivegna Jr. has April 12th open (as of this writing). Call for information.

Captain Bill Ricca also switched from cod to flounder on Saturday when the seas became to nasty to fish cod properly. Ricco Orso, Ray Arlia and his friends, all from Manhattan pulled in over three dozen harbor flounder, all in the three quarter to two and three quarter range on the **Allyssa Ann**.

Captain Michael Potts reported a few large fish caught on the **Bluefin IV** during weekday charters, before the weather turned sour over the weekend. High catch of the week was approximately twenty cod on Wednesday with the Cooks, with most fish in the fifteen to twenty-five pound range. Largest fish caught during the

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	8:25	8:40	9:20	9:30	9:05	9:20	10:05	10:15	12:05	12:30	—	12:00	8:20	8:35	4/10
FRI.	9:00	9:10	9:55	10:05	9:40	9:55	10:40	10:50	12:30	12:55	12:10	12:35	8:55	9:15	4/11
SAT.	9:35	9:45	10:30	10:45	10:20	10:30	11:20	11:30	12:45	1:20	12:45	1:15	9:35	9:50	4/12
SUN.	10:15	10:25	11:05	11:20	11:00	11:05	—	12:00	1:15	1:45	1:25	2:50	10:15	1:35	4/13
MON.	10:55	11:00	11:50	—	11:45	11:45	12:10	12:50	1:50	2:25	2:05	2:35	11:00	11:20	4/14
TUES.	11:45	11:50	12:05	12:35	—	12:30	12:55	1:45	2:30	3:10	2:50	3:25	11:50	—	4/15
WED.	—	12:35	12:55	1:25	12:30	1:25	1:50	2:50	3:15	4:00	3:40	4:20	12:15	12:50	4/16
THURS.	12:45	1:35	1:55	2:25	1:20	2:20	2:50	3:50	4:10	5:00	4:35	5:15	1:15	1:55	4/17

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 4/10	5:28	6:35
FRI. 4/11	5:27	6:36
SAT. 4/12	5:26	6:37
SUN. 4/13	5:24	6:38
MON. 4/14	5:22	6:39
TUE. 4/15	5:20	6:40
WED. 4/16	5:19	6:41

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 4/10	6:02AM	8:28PM
FRI. 4/11	6:26AM	9:40PM
SAT. 4/12	6:53AM	10:49PM
SUN. 4/13	7:26AM	11:56PM
MON. 4/14	8:06AM	—
TUE. 4/15	8:53AM	12:13AM
WED. 4/16	9:49AM	1:05AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
4/9	4/17	4/24	5/1

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	5:20	11:30	5:40	11:50
Fri.	6:05	—	6:30	12:15
Sat.	6:50	12:40	7:20	1:05
Sun.	7:40	1:30	8:10	1:55
Mon.	8:35	2:25	9:05	2:50
Tues.	9:30	3:20	10:00	3:45
Wed.	10:25	4:15	10:55	4:40
Thurs.	11:20	5:10	11:50	5:35

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past week was a fifty-one pound cod by the West group of New Jersey on Monday, and a fourty-two pound hake by the Engesby's on Friday. A few blackfish and small pollock are mixed with all catches.

SOUTH FORK

Dick Mendelman at **Harbor Marina** at Three Mile Harbor lamented that the weekend weather was not conducive to exploring the area for snowshoe flounder. The fishing station is geared up, ready to go and is just waiting for good weather to bring out the fishermen.

Captain Artie Lach of the Sag Harbor based open boat, **Wilhelric II**, said that flounder came to life over the weekend, with the best fishing at South Ferry, only a 20 minute ride from the dock! Despite wind, rain and wind against tide conditions over the weekend, before the anchor was set on the first drop, several anglers were into double headers. While the average catch on Saturday was 15 to 20 per man, Peter Kilanowski of Holbrook caught 27 while George "the Postman" managed 25. The pool fish was over 2 lbs. and all fish were taken on mussel bait. Daily sailings are scheduled at 7AM.

Before the weekend blow-out, impressive catches of flounder were admired at **Bayview Marine and Tackle** in Sag Harbor, with average catches ranging from 30 to 50 flounder a trip. Most fish averaged 1¼ lb., with an occasional over 2 lb. fish. Best bets for the weekend include Johnson's Creek (just outside the breakwater); Mashomack Point (off the osprey nest at Gibson's) and Smith's Cove (at South Ferry). Cedar Point is just starting and is worth a try according to Chris Salb.

Sherry Corr saw nice flounder brought into **Sherry & Joe Corr's Best Boatworks** this week on marina boats, mostly fishing the Heady Creek area. On Wednesday, City resident Fred Garafalo with his sons Stu, Ross and Nathan brought back over 150 flounder in the 3/4 to 1 lb. range. Jersey resident Dennis, with his friend Walt, managed 65 flounder on Thursday and 40 the next day with friend, John. On windy Saturday, Bill Hichak and his son, with Louie stayed out long enough for 18 flounder to succumb to their baited hooks.

Thom Speckenbach at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in Southampton heard of catches of flounder at Three Mile Harbor, both at the mouth of the harbor and the Amagansett side. Reports from Promised Land are of scattered fish—all large. If weather permits it this weekend, it should be worth the trip. Shinnecock Bay has been holding its own, however wind and rain have kept home prospective anglers. The Heady Creek area still seems the best bet. In the Peconics, channels and creeks still seem the

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South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

The weekend's easterly blow and accompanying rain put a damper on what had been a good week of flounder fishing in both bays. Most captains and tackle shop owners agreed that a return to better weather would see the fishing bounce right back to normal. Flounder remain at the top of the heap though some mackerel reports should begin filtering in over the next week or two. Blackfish too, can be expected to make their appearance over the next couple of weeks. A catch of bergalls and a couple of sundials reported this week, are indicative of the changes to come.

best bet, with Mill Creek and Towd Point showing signs of flounder activity.

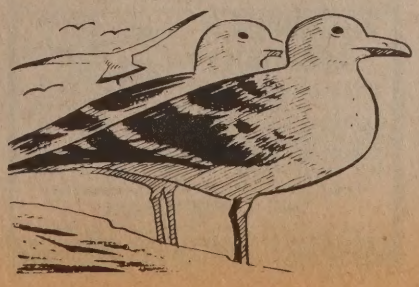
Shinnecock Canal regular, Rosemary Fedorco of Manorville, feels the flounder run is just about over in the Canal. Over the weekend, a very large body of very small fish, 3 to 4 inches, moved in and were picking away at the baits. Some persistent anglers managed to catch 3 to 6 flounder over 10 inches, along with a few sundials.

Early last week, Bruce Hopke trailered his boat to Westhampton to fish the Quogue Canal (buoy 7A) area. His catch was checked at **Greenlawn Sports Shop**. Two fish weighed exactly 2 lbs. each; the remainder, 34, were just over 1 lb., according to Mel Fleishman. The fish took drifted sand worms.

Although a charter on the **Joy-Sea** on Saturday, which included Harold Walters, Tony Loperfido, Jimmy and Bo tried to codfish in rather nasty sea conditions, the weekend was basically a wash-out. Captain Chuck Mallinson is sure that calmer weather conditions will provide better catches. Continued reports of fine flounder catches, with some very large fish, provide an encouraging note. Call Capt. Mallinson for details on open dates on the **Joy-Sea.**

Captain Joe McBride's first trip of the season on the charter boat **My-Mate** was cancelled due to bad sea conditions. However, Captain McBride looks forward to a good spring flounder and cod run and will sail again next weekend. A few spring dates are available; check ad for information.

Edelman's Lou Rosado saw the open boat **Marlin IV** return to the dock with a good catch of cod on Friday: one angler reported catching 10 cod, others 6 or 8. The boat was reported to be fishing an area far south of Block Island. The sight of this catch prompted Lou to board the boat on Saturday. However, it was a case of "you should have been here yesterday" as very rough seas and wind kept the catch way down. A few days of warm, calm weather is all that is needed to pick up cod catches, according to those in the know.



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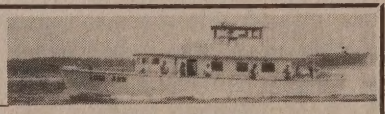

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in **East Moriches**, Larry Byckman reported some good flounder action during the week but a very tough weekend due to the easterly blow. On Friday, Vinnie Esposito and Harry Steinway fished the Buoy 43 area and returned with two dozen big flatties between 1 and 2 pounds. The catch is a good indication that the fish have now worked east in the Bay. Also on Friday, Harry Hakoun and friends put away 32 nice flatties at Buoy 27. Back on Wednesday, Ron Becci worked Buoy 29 to the tune of 30 flounder. Mussel chum and sand and bloodworm baits have been accounting for most of the fish.

Gary Grunseich speaking from his **Silly Lily Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** reported very good flounder action prior to the weekend when strong east winds virtually shut down the fishing. On Thursday, Sal Diadema, Joe Salamone, Pete Carey, Bill Allee and Ted Ielardi, working out of two boats between Buoys 27 and 29, totaled 130 flatties with most of the fish ranging between 1 and 2 pounds. On Friday, Gary reported some decent scores made at the east end of the bay near Buoys 42 and 43 which is a good sign that the fish are now spreading around the bay. Saturday and Sunday were almost a total loss with the exception of one boatman who worked the Ace In The Hole spot and finished up Saturday with 40 flatties. No one even left the dock on Sunday according to Gary.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Speaking from **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Joey Modica reported that good flounder catches had been the rule most of the week but that the weekend weather kept most anglers in the barn. Some managed a fair shot at the fish Saturday morning before the winds began to blow. Art Anderson and George Rulan counted 18 flatties up to 2 pounds taken at Buoy 16. Shorecasters continue to do surprisingly well at the Blue Point town dock. Joey noted that the sand spit at the mouth of the Patchogue River has also been producing a fair pick of flatties. Most shore anglers have been depending on worms in the bait department.

From **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, Al Colban knew of some good flounder catches made during the week and through Saturday morning (prior to the strong easterly winds) at Buoy 30-Range Channel, Sailors Haven and West Channel. Worms and clams worked well during the week and chumming and stirring the bottom is very important if you are looking to up your score. Al added that he did receive a report from one customer who told of taking a sundial on a flounder hook. He took it as an encouraging sign of warming bay tempertures.

Carl Miller over at **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore** labelled it a good week for flounder fishing but lamented the loss of the weekend to the weather. Several anglers attempted to fish in Saturday's blow but met poor results while Sunday was a total washout. During the week, Lance Armstrong and his crew aboard the "Crab II" corralled 125 flatties in Dickerson's Channel. Carl thought that most boatmen have been averaging between 30 and 40 flatties working Dickerson's Channel or south of Heckscher State Park. Back on Tuesday, Carl managed to sneak out himself and he and his crew totalled 60 flatties in Dickerson's Channel.

From **Captree Bait Station**, Bobby Sprenger reported plenty of fish in the bay for boatmen though the weekend's easterly blow did hurt the action. For shorebound anglers, the Robert Moses Piers have been producing some flatties while the Jones Beach Piers continue to produce at a steady pace. Worms have been the key for most shore anglers.

Capt. Carl Passaro of the **Miss Captree** reported consistently good action all week except Sunday which was off due to the easterly storm. Even Saturday's results were decent considering the poor conditions. Most trips saw catches of 15-25 flatties per man common with high hooks between 35 and 40 fish. During the week, Sonny Angelica counted 53 flatties in back to back trips. On Tuesday, Vinnie Marchesi and his wife totalled 75 while Jimmy Casciatore nailed 27 fish. Carl has been working the Blue Point Line, Barrett Beach and Sailor's Haven opposite Sayville. Most fish range between ½ and 1½ pounds.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Joseph II** reported good fishing all week but he too was quick to note that fishing was off on the weekend due to the storm. Back to Monday, Helen Kurz had 45 flatties while Paul Galeno and Andrew, Ken and Tony Cronicello accounted for 129 fish including the pool winner. Tony Samarino counted 35 flatties on Tuesday while Mildred Schwartz finished with 29. On Friday, Richie Copans nailed 42, Paul and William Stewart, 55 and Tom Heinssen and Jennifer Ogden finished up with 65. On the weekend, Charlie fished tight to the beach to try to take advantage of whatever lee he could find off of Cherry Grove and Sailor's Haven and managed a decent pick. Saturday saw Leonard Thomas and Ellen and Jimmy Lacava take 70 flatties. Sunday's catches averaged between 8 and 10 flatties per man. The skipper noted that while both clams and worms accounted for fish, clams appeared to have the edge.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** reported plenty of fish all over the bay with the largest quantities being found to the east off of Sayville and Blue Point. He noted an increase in the number of smaller fish this past week but noted that there are plenty of nice sized fish

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Young Dan Bosman shows six of the 22 flatties he caught during a 3-22 trip aboard the Bay Shore based open boat, "Laura Lee." His largest, a 2 lber., earned him the pool. Fishing was done on the Bay Shore flats.

as well. While weekend action was off due to the weather, the skipper expects fishing to bounce right back with a return to fair weather.

Capt. Doc Grell of the **Babylon** charter and open boat **Moby Dick** reported a catch of 50 flatties on Friday off of Bergen Point. Fisherman artist Fred Guardineer showed the way by leading the crew of four with 25 flatties.

Tom Healy, speaking from **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** named Dickerson's Channel, the State Channel, Massapequa Cove and Bergen Point as having produced good flounder catches during the week. The weekend was another story altogether as strong easterly winds wiped out the fishing for most anglers. There were a few exceptions for those able to find shelter on Saturday morning before the winds began gusting to over 35 mph. Pete Nowinski and his crew aboard his "Miss Ellie" tucked into East Fox Creek on Saturday and totalled 41 nice fish up to 1½ pounds. Tom labelled Sunday as a complete washout and added that a few white perch were taken in the Carll's River system this week.

Capt. Ralph Green of the open boat **Miss Babylon** reported fares averaging 10-15 flatties apiece during the week fishing in the State Channel between Babylon and Lindenhurst. On Wednesday, Bill Falvia counted 21 flatties for his efforts. He returned Friday to take 18 more. On Thursday, John Kellerhals nailed 22 keepers. Strong east winds slowed the action on the weekend according to Ralph.

A reminder from Jimmy at **Suffolk Marine** that they will be hosting a big Open House on Saturday, April 12th. They will have inwater displays of their Topaz and Hydrasport boat lines as well as electronics seminars by Lowrance reps and others. For more info, call Jimmy at 516-669-0907.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreani reported that the weekend was pretty much a loss due to the storm. However, Jim Grandeo and his sons Jason and Joey did manage to cull 33 keeper flatties to a pound and a half from the Bay Shore flats before things got too bad on Saturday. Fishing aboard their boat "Independence", they used mussel and clam chum and bloodworms. Mike himself sampled the fishing at the Lindenhurst Cut on Wednesday. He put away 40 nice flatties using heavy clam chum and blood and sandworms. He added that the sandworms enjoyed a definite edge over the bloods. On Thursday, he counted 15 bergalls while floundering in the Massapequa Cove area. This is a good sign that the first inshore blackfish cannot be far behind. Another clue to the changing season was a catch of a sundial made by one customer while floundering. Mike added that a fair number of flounder are being picked from shore at the Lindenhurst Town Beach with worms being the favored bait there.

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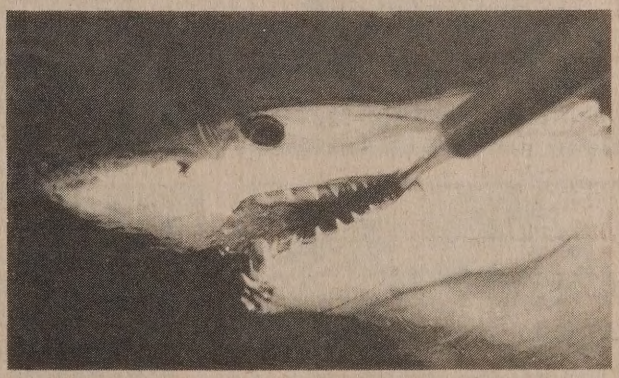

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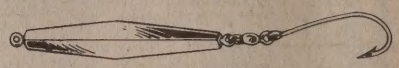
Chester Shew of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** said that although the weekend was pretty much a washout, he did have one impressive flounder score to report though it lacked specifics. Local bay sharpie Al Smith and a buddy totalled over 150 flatties working a favorite piece of local bay bottom. During the week, Chester knew of good catches made at Heckscher, Squaw Island and on the flats south of Tanner Park in Copiague. Most anglers have been doing well with bloodworms and mussel chum. A few tommy cod reported from Massapequa Cove as well.

Bob Vitale of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor** reported a catch of 30 big flounder made aboard Fred Walter's "Reel Affair" on Saturday. Taken on worms, many of the fish weighed between 1 and 1½ pounds. The scene of the catch was East Fox Creek at the intersection of the State Channel. Also on Saturday and in the same area, Tom Wiswall and Ken Shmieder aboard the "Lady Marion" put away a similar catch. Some very fine flounder action underway at Tanner Park Pier judging by the results of 16 year old Pat Grasso during the week. The local youngster used bloodworms to rack up and impressive total of 26 flounder.

Frank Pristera of **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale**, fishing aboard the "Madness" on Saturday morning, reported a catch of 45 flatties up to a pound and a half. All the damage was done between 9 and 11 AM in the shelter of East Fox Creek. A combination of corn, yellow dyed rice and clam chum stirred the fish while bloodworms did the damage in the bait department. Frank had plenty of good reports during the week from the Heckscher area to the east and Massapequa Cove to the west. The weekend's storm seemed to wipe out the action in most areas.



West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

If anyone knows why the crummy weather lands on the weekend, please let us know. Floundering during the week ran anywhere from fair to very good, with a downturn on the weekend due to the wind and rain. However, the fish are strongly in residence with new fish moving in all the time and as long as you can wet a line, it looks as though there are plenty of fish around to oblige. Some offshore cod have also been bagged here and there.

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WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

From **Wanser's Tackle** in Seaford Lon tells of good flattie catches prior to the wind and rain of the weekend, with the east side of Massapequa Cove, Squaw Island and Zachs Bay, the Jones Beach Pier and Seaman's Neck park bulkhead being very productive. Fish have been mixed sizes and chumming is the key to good catches.

A call from Wally at **Pop's Fishing Station** told of catches of 20 to 35 flounder per skiff which though not spectacular, was decent, all prior to the weekend. Best action was at the drain, Squaw and the 3rd Wantagh, fish mostly keepers. Wally said he has a new program going for rentals which will feature senior citizen's day every Wednesday and on Friday, he is running what is called an "everybody day." These appear to be good savings for slow days. See ad and call for details.

We hear from **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** that Massapequa Cove, Great Island Channel, buoys 14, 12 and 10 were quite strong during the week. Squaw also produced some fish. Mussel, clam and worms all caught, with mussel chumming being crucial. Most boats had 3/4 to a full pail of flatties. The weekend, of course, had too much wind and rain for any serious efforts on behalf of anglers. Mike Sommers of Kings Park during the week had 44 fish working Massapequa Cove and its abutting flats.

Over in Wantagh Mike at **Causeway Tackle** told of good floundering through Friday with catches tapering off over the weekend due to the weather. Best action seemed to be 3 hours on both sides of the high, said Mike. Best areas were the Bellmore/ Merrick regions with catches of 12 to 25 flounder a boat, assisted by heavy chumming. Tuesday saw Wayne Chin and two pals work 4 Corners for 84 flounder on sand worms. On Wednesday, Mike Falco, fishing on his boat Anchored in Jesus, had 44 flatties to 2 lbs. on just 3 hours of incoming water in Merrick Bay throwing lots of chum with regular clam and mussels as hook bait. Thursday saw Bill Laverty and Bruno Y. bail 35 fish to 2 lbs. in the West Island area. Mike also knew of a few low teen sized cod and some doggies taken 200 degrees out of Jones in 60 feet of water, 2 to 6 fish a boat. He said that the inshore wrecks are as yet barren.

Out of Freeport, Captain Jim of the **Super Spray II** told of pretty good flounder fishing on their half day trips during the week in Reynolds and Jones Inlet, but that things were really tough on the weekend due to the punk weather.

A call came in from Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet.** With two boats floundering Saturday, the charters had fair catches anywhere from local drops in Freeport east to the Wantagh bridges. Fish went up to 1½ lbs. on clam, worm and mussels aided by corn chum. Santos Rodriguez of the Bronx was high hook and pool winner on the **BF II**. The skipper said he has some prime dates open.

The **Capt. Andy II** found fishing in the back to be the best this past week, with the inlet coming up in second place. Andy said his fares caught fish in spurts with patches of fish moving around and that he made lots of drops. Very few throwbacks, however most fish were 3/4 to 1 lb., with local areas best on the changes of tide.

We learn from skipper Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** that catches ran from very good to excellent during the week on the full and half day boats. The full day boats saw high hooks ranging from 25 into the 40s with a super Wednesday of over 1,000 flounder taken to 2 lbs. Wednesday's high hook was Harry O with 43 fish and on Friday, regular Charlie was happy with 40. Action slowed Saturday and Sunday due to the east wind and rain. The half day boat had an excellent week said Mike with high hooks ranging from the high teens into the 30s with local fish going to 2 lbs. The flood tide was best on mussels and red-dyed clams.

Captain Richie Kessinger is now sailing daily at 6:30AM for mackerel and whiting. On Saturday, he had a special offshore cod and pollock wreck trip which by present day standards was successful. Sixty cod were taken (correction—30 cod and 30 pollock were taken) with cod to 65 lbs. and pollock to 30 lbs. Keep in mind that this was made in the poor weather conditions we had Saturday of 25 MPH winds e/n/e. Richie said they worked two wrecks for this catch.

A call came in from the charter boat **Captain Gary II**, sailing both Saturday and Sunday despite the messy weather conditions. Saturday's trip for Queens Transit Bus Company saw fair floundering in Merrick Bay, Swift Creek and Jones Inlet. High hook was Dave Asumga with 15 flounder. Joe Oliveri had 14, while 11-year-old Ron Jacoby took the pool with a 2 lber. Sunday's trip was for the VFW with Tom Keen high hook with 10 fish and a 2 lb. pool winner for Sonny Amitili.

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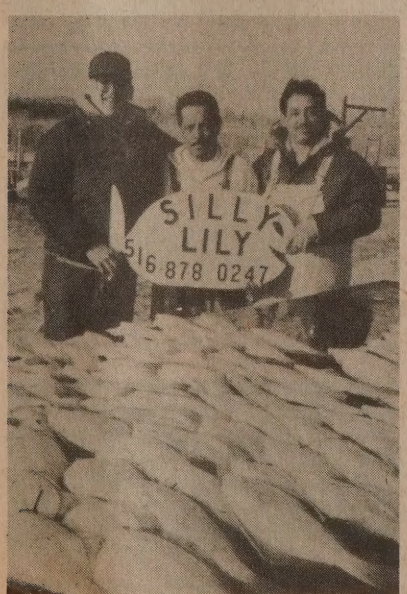

George Linkus, Charlie Coffie and Chino Rufino with part of a big catch of Moriches Bay flatties taken on March 28 during a trip out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in East Moriches.

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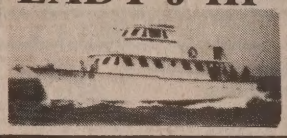

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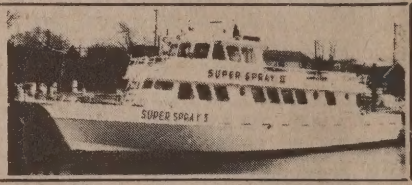

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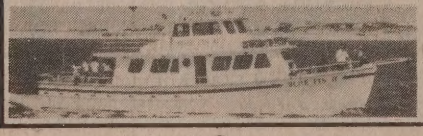

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Over in Pt Lookout, we learned from the **Capt. Al** of excellent flounder catches in the early part of the week with lots of fares taking 25 to 30 nice fish. Tuesday and Wednesday were excellent said the skipper fishing Jones, Squaw, and Massapequa Cove. Things started to slide on Thursday with the weather. Customers picked away, however, and with lots of drops, nice catches were put together but you had to work for these fish. They were mixed sizes with more smaller fish showing up in the catch (a healthy sign). Mussels and bloods were the best hook bait and just about anything worked in the inlet.

The weather kept most people from renting skiffs at **Ed's and Scotty's Fishing Station** on Reynolds, but those boats that did venture out picked away and found some decent flattie catches. Bunker and cocktail blues and a couple of short fluke have already been seen, believe it or not, according to Bill at Ed's. It may be a very early season. Tom at Scotty's told of 97 fish in one skiff for 3 men from Brooklyn during the week and 21 for another rental during the week. Action has been west of the bridge and in Swift Creek opposite the CG Station. Mussel on the hook and for chum produced all throughout the tide for mixed size fish.

Aboard the **Miss Point Lookout** catches were very good for most of the week with high hooks into the 20s. Action was hottest at the changes in the inlet, with the ebb best. Captain Ron says their brand new boat has been launched at the builder's down south and is undergoing sea trials at present and should be here in 2 to 3 weeks.

From **Long Beach Boat Rentals** we are told of fair flounder action at buoy 9 and buoy 5 in Reynolds this past week with fish to 1½ lbs. on mussels and sand worms with heavy chumming a must. The Magnolia Pier has been producing nice size herring days and evenings on small tubes wrapped with aluminum foil.

Word from **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook is of good flounder catches at the Magnolia Blvd. Pier and in Reynolds, with heavy chumming a must. Try fishing straight down with a chum pot at the Pier. Charlie noted that Ed and Maryann Fletchtner, Valley Stream, fished Bay park Saturday taking 21 nice flounder to 1½ lbs.

NEW YORK BIGHT

We hear from Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** on Jamaica Bay that both North and South channel bridges have been producing very good flounder catches for bridge fishermen and boaters but on movinv tides only. Mussel and worms are the bait and mussel chum is important. Tony Santoro bagged a 2 lb. 10 oz. flattie fishing the South Channel bridge with

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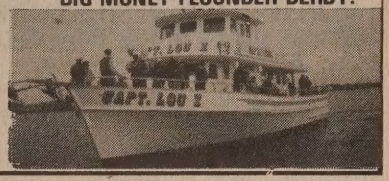

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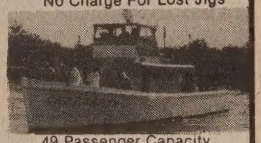

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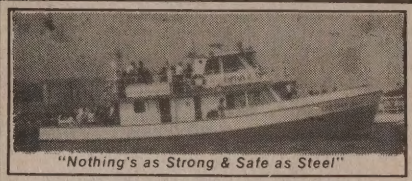

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mussels on incoming and John Mandolfo took a 1 lb. 10 oz. specimen off the north channel bridge fishing incoming with a sand worm mussel combo.

To the west in Sheepshead Bay, Sal at **Stella Maris Tackle** just east of the fleet said a good item has been blackfish being caught mainly at 17 Fathoms and off the Coney Island and Rockaway. He also told of some good floundering around the Marine Parkway bridge, and in the Navesink river.

According to the open boat **Zephyr**, the early part of the week provided very good flounder action in the Navesink and also in Sandy Hook bay, especially on the turn of tide to the tune of 15 to 20 nice fish a man. Things slowed toward the end of the week, said Capt. Butch with Sunday being the slowest. Fish up to 1¾ lbs. responded well to sand worms and mussels.

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** now sailing daily at 6AM for blackfish told of some very good blackfishing Monday through Friday with the weather hurting the weekend catches. Blackfish were caught up to 12 lbs. and there were several 9 and 10 lbers. taken as well. Fares also to break the monotony had a smattering of cod to 23 lbs.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

Horrible weekend weather with strong easterlies put the damper on a lot of flatfishing activity. Nevertheless, the take of winter flounder went according to schedule for most of the week. Shallow bays were best on bright days and the deeper waters of the Sound had a few fish around dredged areas. Although bottom temperatures may still be below 41 degrees, surface temperatures pushed 50 before the weekend. The Peconic Bays were just starting as well.

WESTERN SOUND

Larry Ricci at **John's Gun** in New Rochelle said that shoreline fishing from Rye down to the castle at Glen Island was quite good. Boats had fish in the one pound plus category and Pete Pearson of the **Klondike** figured that the fishing could be halfway decent on days when the weather was favorable. Thursday and Friday catches ran from 15 to 20 flatties per fare; Saturday was picky, but Sunday was somewhat better. Northport worked best for Pearson in 7 to 10 feet

of water, but there was no action outside.

Jack Rumpf at **Jack's Bait on** City Island like Eastchester Bay and the Orchard Beach lagoon for flounder when weather permitted. Because of easterly winds, no skiffs were rented over the weekend. However, City Island party boats sailed up to Oyster Bay where catches of 15 flounder per fare were the norm. Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** was fishing behind the dredges in 20 feet of water where most fish were in the 1/2 to 3/4 pound category. There were a few fish over a pound, perhaps 40 on the boat on Saturday. Pete Anderson of the **North Star** figured that the ratio of keepers to throwbacks was around one to one.

John Cacciola at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** figured that most shore areas from Tappans to Morgans and Pryble were good for fish from 3/4 of a pound and up. Virtually all action was from the beach.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Frank Ingargiola of the **My Yacht II** called to tell us that he'll be running the 12-passenger boat on an open basis from Mount Sinai on Wednesdays beginning April 16th. Despite getting blown off outside areas on Saturday, he still helped Tom Hogan's party pick 15 nice keepers inside.

George Valentine at **Four Winds** in Huntington, spoke of a lot of 1/2 to 3/4 lb. flounder off Lloyds, Duck Island, Sand City, Centerport's Mill Dam and docks around Cold Spring Harbor and Northport. Valentine figured that the **Ever Ready** may be appearing in reports by early May.

On Sunday, Rich Schaller teamed with Capt. John Alberta of Sound Charters for some excellent flounder action. Tucked into the shelter of Northport Harbor, the two men kept 50 flatties between 3/4 and 1½ lbs. out of the more than 100 they boated. Fishing was done in 12 feet of water with clam chum and worm and clam bait. John still has some spring weekend dates open for flounder and blackfish and reminded that he will be specializing in bass, bluefish, weakfish and fluke charters as the season progresses.

The **Greenlawn Sport Shop** liked 7 to 8 feet of water off Duck Island where half the flounder were keepers. Some large catches were noted by the **Caraftis Fishing Station** in Port Jefferson. The best numbers came from inside Setauket Harbor. The **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** noted small fish inside Conscience Bay and felt that shallow water fishing was still the rule in that area of the Sound around Mount Sinai.

The Mount Sinai based charter boat **Hawkeye** reported a decent catch of big flounder on its first trip of the season last week. Bob and Todd

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Thoma, with their friend John, all of New Rochelle, caught a total of 35 flatties. Eight of the fish hit the 3 lb. mark on the scale, while the rest were in the 1½ to over 2 lb. range. Lots of chum was needed.

A lucky angler will win a bluefish trip for two on the **Hawkeye**. Watch L.I. Fishing with Lorry Mangan for details on how to enter the drawing. Tune in 7PM Friday, Channel 55 (WLIG-TV).

The best catches from Shoreham numbered around a dozen to a dozen and a half flatfish per tide. The **Hawkeye** made a haul of 38 large flounder, some over 2 lbs., but it wasn't clear whether that boat worked two tides or not.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's Fishing Station** in Mount Sinai had an active Saturday with a few fish in the harbor itself. Ralph, too, noted that early action had begun between Shoreham and Roanoke, although the pace was slow.

Al Sturges at the **Compleat Angler** in Miller Place said that corn chum was the secret to some big catches of flounder in harbors from Port Jeff to Mount Sinai.

NORTH FORK

Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** was the first open boat skipper to sail from Greenport this season. Despite cruel wind versus tide conditions and a slipping anchor in Saturday's 35 knot gale, the boat had a "fair shot" at fish on the turn of the tide and made a couple of attempts at Rams Head as well. Richie Jensen of the **Nancy Ann** faced the rain and blow on Sunday around South Ferry and managed 75 flatties on the change of tide despite a terrible swing. Chumming was impossible. With fair catches under the worst conditions, signs are good for the coming week around Shelter Island.

Pete Izzo called to say that he and Tom Bernhardt will be splitting assignments with the **BoAnne II**, a 38 passenger craft sailing from **Port of Egypt Marine** in Southold. Beginnin April 14th, the boat will be sailing open at 7:30AM on weekdays and chartering on weekends. Mother's Day is the only open flounder charter left.

Other scheduled openers for the North Fork fleet are as follows: April 8th, Tuesday, for the **Captain Bob** out of Mattituck Creek by the Old Mill; April 17th, Thursday for the **Prime Time III** out of Orient by the Sea Marina. The **Brand X** will be coming off the ways early this week and should also be sailing by next week.

There was good news from Phil Loria at **Captain Marty's**. Flounder are finally showing at the South Race and off Nassau Point. John Hechtman had 20 keepers off buoy 28 and Dom DeRanieri managed 33 fish from Nassau Point and the South Race during Friday's calm, cloudy weather.

Cutchogue creeks were dead, but Nick Cyprus at **Warren's** thinks that bait sales indicate some sort of action at Indian Island anda the Peconic River mouth. There were no consistent reports from the Sound.

Southold Bay reports came from both the **Port of Egypt** and from the **A.P. White Bait Shop**. Action was passable late in the week near Shelter Island, especially around Rams Head and better fishing appears imminent.

Freshwater REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

Trout fishing was the name of the game this week for most metropolitan area freshwater enthusiasts. From Hunter Mountain to the east end of Long Island, catches were good for the first two days of the new season as warm temperatures helped put both fish and fishermen in a cooperative mood. Action slowed over the weekend, however, as light rain and cooler air put a damper on things. Aside from trout, a few anglers found good fishing for pickerel, crappies and yellow perch.

From **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in **Wantagh**, Mike Nicoletti informed us that anglers have been getting in some good innings with twelve to seventeen inch pickerel in South Twin Lake. Small Mepps spinners and gold Rapalas have been the most producti lures. Crappie fishing has been "fabulous" in North Twin Lake with most of the slabs falling for live killies. Mike added that seven year old John Weingarten took a nineteen inch pickerel early in the week while fishing at Carooms Pond in Massapequa. Carp fishing, which was pretty good last week, slowed considerably.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, had no specifics to report but did know that yellow perch fishing was red hot in Southard's Pond, Babylon. Worm baits have been responsible for most of this action and quite a few bullheads have been mixing in. There are still a few white perch in the tidal creek behind TSS in Massapequa and trout fishing in the Connetquot River was pretty consistent this week.

Caleb Smith State Park manager Mike Venuti gave a call this Sunday to let us know that fishing has gotten off to a little slower start than expected. Still, there were some nice holdover trout taken from the Nissequogue River beats this week. Among some of

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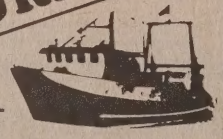

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the more notable catches were a brace of twenty inch brown trout and a twenty-one inch rainbow. A mixture of patterns accounted for fish this week.

The gang at **J&R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, reports that Patrick Ryan of Islip Terrace scored with rainbow trout of four pounds, two and a half pounds, and one and one third pounds, among others in the park early in the week. Black Ghost and Hare's Ears patterns were the ticket. As usual, there are plenty of small trout at Bubbles Falls and Rattlesnake Creek but a few larger fish are being taken also. On Sunday morning, Jim Maskulyak connected with an 18¾ inch rainbow at Bubbles. There have been a few scattered reports of white perch in the tidal reaches of the Connetquot River but no fish have been weighed in recent days.

Paul Graniello and crew at **J&J Bait and Tackle** in **Patchogue**, reported a very busy week on the freshwater side. David Johnson connected with a two pound brown trout in a local tidal creek and Jim Curto checked in a 1.5 pound rainbow taken in Hard's Lake at Southaven Park. At Connetquot River State Park, Dave McCutcheon and friend Tom Healy had a ball during a morning session taking plenty of trout on small nymphs. Paul also mentioned that he inspected several nice holdovers in the fourteen inch range taken from West Lake, Patchogue, on worm baits. Fishing Tuthill's Creek on Saturday morning, Joe o'Donnel and Gene Norman used live killies and combined to take a sixteen inch brown trout and numerous small pickerel which they released. Lastly, Charlie Mosely of Medford mossied on in to show off a stringer of slab sized crappies to two pounds taken from a local lake.

From the **Sportsman's Center** in **Medford**, Al Schreier spoke of fast action with small trout in Lower Yaphank Lake. A few larger fish were culled from Upper Lake too. Worms were the bait of choice for most anglers.

George Devlin of the **Fisherman's Deli** in **Riverhead** passed on word that fishing is still a little slow but improved over last week. Mike Jacobs came out on Saturday and scored with eight largemouth bass (released) to 3.5 pounds in Peconic River. Mike relayed word that deep water and deep diving crankbaits or spinner baits worked near the bottom were responsible for his success. Claude Woodley of Riverhead worked the upper river with redworms and managed eight nice crappies and three small bass.

From Crazy Cheif's Ski and Sport Shop in Hunter Mountain, New York, Ken Josephson called to let us know that the season got off to a great start with plenty of trout in the twelve to fourteen inch range taken over the first two days. Night crawler baits were the most productive offering. Action slowed over the weekend due mostly to the cooler temperatures.

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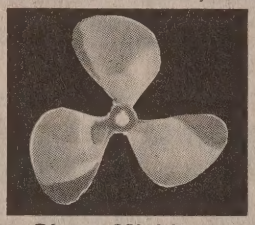

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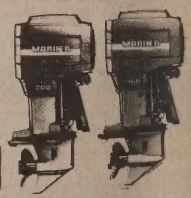

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1985 TOPAZ 29, Volvo diesels, FWC. Tower, pulpit, Ries encl. Compl. electronics, custom tackle lockers. Numerous extras. Ready for Canyon; sharks; blues. $89,000. ATLANTIC SPORT FISHING, Pt. Pleasant, NJ. 201-899-1800.

1979 WELLCRAFT V20 Steplift, cuddy cabin. 200 hp FWC Volvo I/O. VHF, T/T, gas detector. Full canvas. 200 hrs. since new. Mint cond. $9500. Eves: 212-547-4345.

DEMO: Seaway 26'x10' North Star. Gill Bracket 200 hp Mariner. Sleeps 4. 150 gal. fuel, top, hydraulic steering & more. $28,895. VILLAGE MARINE, Mattituck. 516-298-5800.

1980 SPORTCRAFT 16', 115 hp Chrysler. Navy top; winter covers. Trailer w/spare & jack. Many extras. $3500. 516-536-4739.

1981 28 Bertram FB, TMD 40
1966 31 Bertram Bahia Mar
1976 31 Bertram FB. Great shape
1962 31 Bertram Express Cruiser
1971 42 Hatteras 1981 VT903 Fish equip.
1974 46 Bertram 1/2 tower
1976 46 Bertram 1/2 tower
1981 45 Chris Craft 6-92s Marlin tower
1971 42 Hatteras 1/2 tower, VT903s. Reduced
1984 36 Hatteras, tower
1985 36 Tiara, tower
1976 38 Bertram 1/2 tower
1965 31 Bertram. Mint.
SEA JAC, 516-728-4220/6627.

1971 60 hp Evinrude-$995
1974 115 hp Johnson-$1495
1982 70 hp Evinrude-$2495
1983 35 hp Evinrude-$1495
1983 40 hp Commercial Evinrude-$1795
1981 150 hp Johnson XL-$2995
1982 175 hp Evinrude-$3495.
Fully services. Fully guaranteed. SALTAIRE MARINA, Inc., 76 Front St., E. Rockaway, LI. 516-593-3321.

THE FIRST LUCKY FISHERMAN who comes up with $1995 will "steal" this customized Fiberglass fishing & fun boat. This 18½' Deep V Renken, built to last in 1973 & powered by the thrust of a finely tuned 70 hp Evinrude, comes fully equip w/everything you need; take it right out into the bay & drop your lines. Incl. 4-6 gal. rustproof portable gas tanks w/fittings, deep cycle marine batt., bilge pump, SS Prop + aluminum spare. Life jackets, fire extinguishers, compass, anchor, chain, line, 2 brand new sets fold-down seats for sleeping or sunbathing, protected by set of custom made all weather removable seat covers. Fenders, newly wire running lights, rod holders & brand new depthfinder. All this boat needs is a good spring cleaning, fresh bait & you. Docked in Massapequa, gassed up & ready to go. Stan, 718-738-2001 Days. Eves: 738-1704.

23' FIBERGLASS A.M.F. Sportfisherman. New V8 I/O 1984. Loaded. Outriggers, T/T, electronics. Yard maintained. Custom rigged for fishing. Has-it-all. Must sell; moving inland. Below cost $6000. Eves: 516-862-8130.

OFFSHORE SPECIAL
78 21' MAKO 200 hp Evinrude, SS Prop, rebuilt powerhead & lower unit. 80 Shoreline trailer w/power winch, SS T-top w/electronics box. Outriggers, dual batt., teak swim platform. Si-Tex recorder, Pace VHF. Plus all extras. Must sell; moving up. $13,000. After 5PM: 516-665-3459.

USED PARTS—Large inventory, Evinrude, Johnson, Mercury, Stern Drive. Lower units, gears, blocks, starters, power packs, props. KELLY'S OUTBOARD WORLD, 516-567-3417.

LAKE ONTARIO Rigged, 1978, 21' Mako, 175 hp Johnson, EZ Loader trailer. 4 Big-Jon elect. downriggers, Si-Tex graph, Loran C. Polaris VHF, Procombinator, EMS speed, temp. unit, troll plate. Dual batt. Extra rod holders. Bimini top, spray hood. Clear connecting side, rear curtains. Excl. cond. 914-692-2572.

1975 MAKO 23' center console, 225 FWC Merc I/B. In Freeport, LI. Must sell. $7,800 or B/O. 914-738-5223.

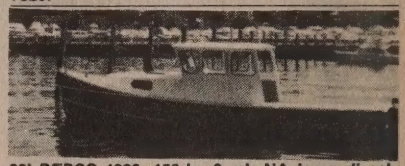
28' WOOD BOAT, 1985 Chrysler Marine engine, Loran, VHF, CB & Graph recorder. Hydraulic winch, downrigger. Many extras. $4995 or B/O. 305-977-6664, Ext. 50 during week or 305-481-2781 Wkdys before 9AM or Wknds.

1980 115 hp Evinrude PT&T, 1978 16' Imperial Bowrider, trailer, power winch. Full canvas. $3500. Excl. 826-4796.

1984 22' MARATHON Sportfisherman, I/O Mercruiser. Sleeps 2. Very low hrs. Compass, VHF, depth recorder. Many extras. New boat arriving. Must sell. Sacrifice $10,990. 361-8079.

1975 19' DRUMMOND center console, 115 Evinrude, radio, compass, etc. Great sea boat. Mint. $3500. 718-721-8116.

16' DYNAGLASS w/flotation. 20 hp Mercury, extension handle & trailer. Ask: $1850. 516-579-7526.



30' REPCO 1983, 150 hp 6 cyl. NA Isuzu diesel, 200 hrs. Solid glass, heavily well built Maine lobster boat. Rigged sport. Documented commercial, dual batt. & tanks. Power hydraulic steering, Bowmar alum. deck plates, 15' cockpit w/lights. Full foam flotation, 2 V-bunks w/cushions. Drop curtain, VHF, paper & digital recorders, Loran, Epirb, 4 gal/hr at 15 knots. All new '83. Beautiful cond. Best realistic offer. 8-10PM: 201-482-7862.

MONEY MAKER! 31' Bertram charter boat & business for Sale. Fully equip. Easy terms; profitable business. 30 charters per season. Days: 516-378-6575. Eves: 621-2878.

LOAD FISHERMAN
1981 Wellcraft, 248 Sportsman. New 350 Mercruiser I/O. Outriggers, downrigger, Loran C, X-15 recorder, Dytek sea temp, Hailer. Apelco Scan VHF, CB. Dual batt., alt-isolator, Dyna Ground sys., 4 flush rod holders. All gauges, AM/FM. Full canvas; full galley. Sleeps 4. Much more. Like new - $22,500. Eves: 718-961-9363.

1981 GRADY WHITE 24' Offshore 130 hrs. 1981 235 & 15 hp Johnsons. 1980 Calkins trailer. New brakes, tires, w/power winch. Swim platform, Porta-Potti, SW washdown, 55 ch. VHF. Loran C, CB, white & flasher D/Rs. Full canvas. Many extras. Better than new. $22,000. Days: 718-456-1197. Eves: 718-899-6998.

1974 PENN YAN 225 hp Chev. Dual station, galley, head. Sleeps 4. Winch. Fully equip. Must sell. $4750. Worth much more. Frank, Days: 201-488-6626.

1981 AQUASPORT 24' Family Fisherman, FWC, stern controls. Loaded! Clean. $16,500. Eves: 516-671-7690.

1970 FABUGLAS 19.5' Bowrider 115 Evinrude w/trailer. Canvas top, 10 gal. tank. $3000. 751-3559/4599.

1984 MAKO 224 2 - 115 Evinrudes, trim tabs, extra gas. VHF, CB, stereo cassette. Rocket launcher, fight chair, outriggers, Loran, Lowrance recorder. Immaculate. 516-691-7226/587-0093.

HARDLY USED: 19' Bayliner center console, 5 hrs. on 125 hp, w/4 hp kicker. Dual batt. system, P/T. Full Bimini canvas. Many more custom items! Too much to list. $9950. After 6PM: 516-588-8592.

23' 1977 SEACRAFT cuddy I/O. 380 hrs. Si-Tex recorder, Datamarine 400' digital, Lee O/Rs, Dytek, Horizon VHF, CB, Mercathode Sys. Full canvas. Showroom cond. $15,450. Days: 914-761-0150. Eves: 914-762-3051. Wknd: 516-728-2712.

SPORTS CRAFT 73, 50 hp Evinrude. Good cond. $1800 or B/O. 783-7028. After 4: 742-1930.

V20 WELLCRAFT Cuddy 1985 115 Evin. VHF, recorder, 1984 Cox galv. EZ Loader w/power winch. Excl. cond. $9000. 369-2790.

31' JERSEY SPORT FISHERMAN, Fiberglass twin Chrysler 318s FWC. Refrig., galley, encl. head. Fully equip. Excl. offshore boat. $28,000 negotiable. 516-378-5654 Eves & Wknds.

32' FOREST JOHNSON Prowler 1975 Sportfisherman, twin Perkins dsls. Both just majored, new imron, radar, auto pilot, etc. Rybo chair. Fast; economical. In Bristol cond. Bus: 516-264-2202. Home: 516-422-3492.

HEALTH FORCES SALE
40' USCG Inspected vessel. Licensed for 36 pass. New hull inspection. Radar, Loran, depth finder, 6 cyl. GMC diesel. Best offer. 516-475-0604; 516-878-9696.

1982 21' PROLINE center console Sportfisherman, 1984 115 hp VRO Evinrude w/extended warranty. Very low hrs. SST prop, spray hood, rod holder + extras. Mint. cond. Negotiable. Eves: 516-432-5336.

REPOWERING?

MERCRUISER, OMC, Volvo, Cobras, Sea Drive, Mercury. Expert installations & service by factory trained technicians. OSM/GARY'S MARINE SVC., Merrick, 516-223-0033.

26' STAMAS Sportfisherman, 228 Mercruiser I/O. 20 hrs. Repowered '83, Si-Tex recorder, depth recorder, Mecathod sys. Full canvas, rod holders, outriggers, dual wipers. Deck lights, bait well, new VHF & CB, 2 anchors. Full instrumentation. 60 gal. tank. New capt. seats. Many extras. Must sell; owner moving. $12,000. 516-791-7867.

1984 GRUMMAN 17' CC 70 hp Evinrude, VHF, DF, 85 galv. trailer. Bimini top. Low hrs. $7000. 757-3484.

20' PRIVATEER
PORT OF EGYPT, Southold. 516-765-2445.

24' 4 TOPAZ 1980, cuddy cabin, Volvo TAMD 40, FWC. Dual batt., Loran, DDF, Si-Tex recorder, Dytek temp, CB, VHF, stereo, SW washdown, outriggers, 100 gal. fuel, trim tabs, new canvas. Extras. $19,900. 516-665-8313.

1980 16' DYNAMAGLASS Dory. Depth finder, lights. Unsinkable. Excl. bay boat. 1981 35 hp Evinrude. Professionally maintained. Sacrifice. $1900. 516-226-9490.

25' MAKO 77, Johnson 235 83. Less than 200 hrs. on engine. Hydraulic steering, SS prop. Dual batt., electronics, downriggers, outriggers, 125 gal. gas tanks. Canvas cuddy. $13,500. 516-489-4923.

23' 1977 SEA CRAFT CUDDY I/O, 380 hrs. Si-Tex Recorder, Datamarine 400' digital. Lee O.R.s, Dytek, Horizon VHF, CB, Mercathode system. Full canvas. Showroom cond. $15,450. Days: 914-761-0150. Eves: 914-762-3051. Wknd: 516-728-2712.

1985 REGAL 25' S.F., 260 hp Merc. I/O. Low hrs. Trailer, Lowrance X-16, USA II UHF. Depth gauge, Halon. Much more. $21,500. 516-979-9760.

18' PICKEREL Custom Built, 55 Evinrude. 728-9734 Early.

BAYHEAD MARINA: Mariner, Mercruiser, Volvo. Special! Rebuilt Mercruiser trim cylinder $95 w/core. 718-525-5724.

17' GLASSMASTER, 1980 115 hp Johnson w/1985 powerhead. Entire interior new. Boat & eng. in Excl. cond. Extras. $3250. 718-339-8854.

1983 40 hp Mariner, manual start, short shaft. Low hrs. Dealer maintained & ready for this season. Two 6-gal. tanks. Ask: 1200. Eves: 516-698-2326.

MAKO 21' 1977, 175 Johnson, 1985 Power head. Shoreline trailer, Loran, recorder, VHF, CB. Hydraulic steering, T/T. Custom console, insulated 500 lb. fish box. $11,000. 718-891-1747.

19' MAKO 1979, Shoreline trailer, power winch. Lowrance X15, VHF, CB, Hynautic steer., outriggers, tournament rear seat, 1983 150 hp Mariana. Bus: 516-264-2202. Home: 516-422-3492.

SUZUKI Outboards: 2-200 hp. McKee Craft Boats. Nova inflatables. Summer dockage; winter storage. KREMER'S BOATYARD, 2425 Jackson Ave., Seaford, 516-221-8877.

1983 AQUASPORT 286 SPORTFISHERMAN
Canyon ready. Twin 351 Commanders FWC, SS manifolds. Low hrs. Tuna tower, dual controls, radar, Loran, SSB, VHF, CB. Full electronics. Outriggers, fight chair, head. Full galley. Sleeps 4. Much more. For Details: Bus: 9-5, 718-786-2793. After 6PM, Home: 718-358-2975.

LOADED FISHERMAN
1983 GRADY WHITE 22' Walkaround cuddy OMC Sea Drive, outriggers, Loran, Maxi Horizon VHF, fight chair, deck pump-out head, swim platform. Many more extras. Like new. $19,000. 516-621-1800. Eves: 516-643-8997.

35 hp Evinrude Long Shaft w/Tiller & new prop. Elec. start. Very good cond. $900. 15 hp Evinrude S.S. V. low hrs. $600. Aft. 6PM: 516-798-9209.

1980 MAINE Custom Built 25' Sportfisherman, 200 hp turbo diesel FWC. Tower, dual controls, cuddy, VHF, Loran. Fully equip. Economical & seaworthy. Mint cond. Many extras. 516-728-1823. 212-792-8787.

1984 GRADY WHITE TROPHY 25', 9' 6" Beam. Hardtop, rocket launcher on hardtop. Custom canvas, twin Mercs I/O FWC, SS props, T/T. Searchlight, lower unit reservoir bottles, 4 batt., Halon system. Full swim platform, 6-man Zodiac life raft in cannister. Lee Sr. O/Rs, Lee center rigger, 8 flush rod holders. Scoponich fight chair, Furuno Loran C, Raytheon 12 mi. radar, auto pilot. Horizon VHF, SW temp gauge. Mecca recorder, dig. depth/alarm, stereo w/tape deck. SW washdown, Marine toilet, chem. w/OB discharge. This Grady is rigged to fish & in beautiful cond. Bought larger boat. 516-728-2611.

CHRYSLER Engine, 225 hp FWC. Excl. running cond. Will Demo. $975. 242-7804.

SHAMROCK 20' cuddy, 78 hull, 83 engine, trailer. Ready to launch. $8900. 914-381-5756.

29' TOPAZ 1983. Turbo-charged diesels. Economic boat. In mint cond. Every extra imaginable and it catches fish! In water. Price $77,500. Days: 516-434-7744. Eves: 516-422-0677.

1985 WELLCRAFT 248 Sportsman w/260 Mercruiser I/O. Full galley, V berth & quarter berths. Porta-Potti. Full canvas, swim platform, T/T, Mercathoid sys., electronic remote control spotlight. Removable jump & motor box seats, 4 rod holders, wiper, horn, hour meter, Loran C, VHF, depth finder, compass. $25,000. 914-835-0183.

EVINRUDE

WE'LL BEAT ANY DEALER'S advertised price—and service it, too! AL GROVER'S, Freeport, 516-378-0510.

FISHERMAN'S DREAM—30' center console, tuna tower, VHF, Loran, recorder, 225 FWC Cruiser. $13,500. G&J MARINE, 516-432-7474.

31' BERTRAM Flybridge Cruiser 1971. Rigged for fishing. Tuna tower, full electronics. New twin 340 hp Mercruisers. $55,000. Days: 516-661-6287. Eves: 516-587-2717.

1979 GRADY WHITE 21'. Sleeps 3. 280 hrs. OMC I/O, 260 hp V8. Dual batt., SS prop, compass, whiteline unimetrics, rod holders & racks. Outriggers, bow pulpit & winch. T/T. Many extras. Excl. cond. Ask: $13,000. In Massapequa. 516-922-9366.

1982 MAKO 258 cuddy, twin 150 Evin., 200 gal. fight chair. Outriggers, Loran, VHF. Too much more to list. $26,500. Frank, 766-3838; 887-3545.

21' 6" 1985 STEIGER CRAFT 115 Yamaha P/T, hard top w/full canvas enclosures. 1984 Cox EZ Loader trailer. Too many extras to list. Rigged for fishing & ready to go. Boat & motor under warranty. $14,500. 914-636-0325/632-3105.

SUZUKI OUTBOARDS
More run for your money.

SUZUKI Outboards 2-200 hp, MC KEE CRAFT unsinkable boats. Nova & Ampac inflatables. Summer dockage; winter storage. KREMER'S BOATYARD, Seaford, 516-221-8877.

STARCRAFT SPRING SALE
New 21 MRW/90 Ev incl . prep & freight-$7995
new 18 MRW/70 Ev. prep & freight-$6595
new 14' open skiff, split seat-$1050
new 16' open skiff split seat-$1200
DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 516-283-6736.

1/2 Tower, Pipe Welders. Full dual controls, 28-30 ft. boat, 10'-11' beam. All aluminum. $2500. 516-223-8152.

1967 16' Fiberglass Whaler type boat. 1985 40 hp electric Yamaha motor. Trailer, chart recorder. $3500. Eves: 516-368-0570.

BAYHEAD MARINA BOAT SALES: Mariner, Mercruiser, Volvo. Performer & Mitchcraft boats. Factory auth. sales & service. Factory certified mechanics. 718-525-5724.

1984 SHAMROCK 20' Pilot House, FWC. In water 1 season. Loaded. Bought larger boat. $13,700. 516-567-2973/2206.

1971 AQUASPORT 22.2 Excl. cond. No motor. Customized console incl. electronics box + high windshield. Some extras. $3250. Eves: 718-531-3464.

MONTAUK MARINE YACHT SALES
Experienced Sportfishing Boats.
17' 1974 Mako CC, 70 hp O/B-$4000
19' 1983 Lema 135 O/B-$5000
20' 1976 Boston Whaler, 200 hp-$13,900
23' 1977 Black Fin I/B 220 hp-$17,000
23' 1981 Mako CC, 235 hp O/B-$17,500
26' 1972 Blue Fin Dsl-$25,000
27' 1981 Sportcraft F/B Dsl-$32,000
30' 1970 Cuttyhunk T/T Dsl-$20,000.
Also dealers for Egg Harbor & Topaz. 516-668-5900.

THUNDERBIRD, 24' cuddy, twin 140 Mercruisers I/Os. Swim plat., tuna tower, VHF, DF, compass. Full canvas. Excl. cond. Ask: $9500. Eves: 516-589-8477.

14' SEA NYMPH Alum. Skiff. Shoreline tilt trailer. Excl. cond. Ready for water. $750. 718-729-0475.

Continued On Next Page

BLUE WATER ROCKET—55 MPH
Bertram 26' Limited Edition 1985 O/B Sportfisherman. In water; ready to go. Twin 220 hp Yamahas. Only 23 hrs. Finest components. Transferable hull & motor warranties. Drastic price redution. $39,900. 516-826-0263.

18' REGAL Bowrider 85, 70 hp Mercury engine, 85 power trim, 86 full canvas, 23 gal. gas tank. Many extras. Like new. $4000. After 8PM: 516-277-1021.

JOHNSON 1985 175 hp VRO 25'' 70 hrs. w/2-yr. extended warranty. SS Prop. Compl. w/all gauges & cables. Like new. After 6PM: 516-764-3834.

THE BEST! Eli Fiberglass 12' Boat/Dilly trailer. In Riverhead. Very good cond. 4-8PM: 718-643-0581.

SEA EAGLE 5-man Inflatable/floor boards. Motor mount, wooden seats, pump, oars. Very good cond. Worth $500 - for $250. 4-8PM: 718-643-0581.

225 hp Chrysler Marine engine. Completely overhauled. Never used. Will Demo. $1600. 516-842-2030.

350 Marine Engine. Compl. w/transmission. Excl. running. Ask: $1000. For info call Bill: 516-546-7980.

MUST BE SEEN!
22' 79 Barnegat Cruiser. Fully equip. FWC, 200 hp OMC. Hank, after 6PM: 516-742-3541.

SCOTTIE Craft 27' Offshore Deep Vee, cuddy, 318 FWC. Outriggers, S.W., depth recorder, radios, canvas, flush deck, P.P., sink, bait wells. $9200. Eves: 378-4698.

TWO 26' Fiberglass Launches w/4 cyl. diesels. One ready to go. Reasonable. Located LI Sound. LARRY, 718-767-7800.

1981 TOPAZ 28' Sportfisherman. Excl. cond. Twin Crusader 270 hp gas. Low hrs. Tuna tower. Fully loaded; must see. $45,000. Days: 718-392-3610. Eves/Wknds: 516-935-6319.

GRAY Marine Engine 225 hp, SWC. Borg Warner 1.91:1 gear. Excl. running cond. Will Demo. $750. After 6PM: 718-446-9051.

1974 23' PENN YAN, Blue Fin center console, tuna tower w/full controls. New new spray hood & tower curtains, 1979 225 Mercruiser. App. 500 hrs. VHF, CB, digital depth finder, teak swim plat. Runs excl. $6500. Boat at Spellmans Marine on North Hwy. 728-1118/5483.

20' TIARA 1979, Mercruiser 170 hp I/O. New 1985 compl. canvas. CG Pkg. Teak wood trim, dual batt., cuddy w/Porta-Potti. Loaded; spotless. Firm $8500. 516-698-1502. After 6PM: 718-357-7162.

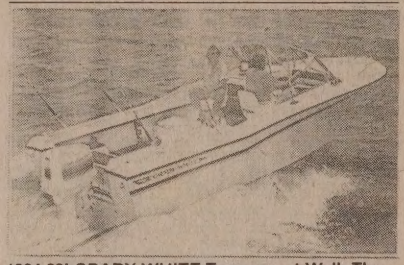
AQUASPORT 19' 6'' FF cudy. New 200 hp O/B, 20 hrs. Warranty till 10-89. Dual batt., gauges, cooler lites, transom ladder, compass. Recorder-flasher, seats, VHF, CB, fuel water sep. Galv. Cox EZ Loader trailer, power winch. Bearing buddies. Fast, clean & ready. Excl. cond. Perfect boat always loved & cared for. $12,000. Eves: 718-767-2435.

1975 18' HANKINS Sea Skiff, 40 hp Evinrude. All acc. Excl. bay boat, strong. $1100 Neg. Also 19' Reinell Bowrider I/O OMC outdrive. Needs work. $500. 516-781-2774.

1982 35' MAINE Coaster Sportfisherman, Volvo TAMD70 Turbo 286 hp I/B. Twin stations, 400 gal. fuel tanks. Boat very clean. Too many options to list. Ask: $67,900. CLARKS LANDING MARINA, 201-899-5559.

1979 CHRIS CRAFT 24'. Sleeps 3. Head, sink, ice box. New Volvo 225 hp I/O, FWC, P/S. Bennett tabs, outrigger, Loran C, ADF, DF. New frame, canvas. 516-585-4478.

CHRIS CRAFT Engines. 2-250 hp. Brand new. Never run. Full warranty. $7600 delivered. After 6PM: 516-623-7703.



1984 22' GRADY WHITE Tournament Walk-Thru. 1984 Evinrude 235 oil injected. Digital depth, paper recorder, VHF, CB, AM/FM stereo cassette, SST Prop, dual batt., outriggers. Downriggers, chair, SW washdown. 93 gal. gas, live well. Full encl. Like new. 140 hrs. Extras. Bought larger boat. $17,900. Days: 231-3668. Eves: 567-6484.

20' MC KEE CRAFT 115 Evinrude 9.9 aux. Full canvas. Batt., gauges, etc. All in good cond. Must sell. $4850. After 6PM: 516-599-2202.

1973 CRUISER 21' Bonanza 188 hp Mercruiser I/O Cuddy cabin. VHF, CB, D/F. Full canvas. In water; ready to go. Ask: $4250. 516-826-8376.

26' STAMAS Sportfisherman 228 Mercruiser I/O. 20 hrs. Repowered '83, Si-Tex recorder, depth recorder, Mecathod sys. Full canvas, rod holders, outriggers, dual wipers, deck lights, bait well. New VHF & CB, 2 anchors. Full instrumentation. 60 gal. tank, new captain seats. Many extras. $12,000. Must sell; owner moving. 516-561-9006.

BERTRAM 20' 1966. Immaculate. Must be seen. 165 I/O Merc. Low engine hrs. Paper recorder, CB, VHF. $8000. 516-669-5197.

BLUE WATER FISHERMAN
23 SeaCraft 1977 Sceptre cuddy cabin, 1981 Mercury Black Max 225 hp. Well equip. Excl. cond. One of the best ocean performers ever built. Ask anyone! Ask: $15,900. 516-728-3797.

MERC INBOARDS
One pair 302 FWC Mercruisers, compl. w/Borg Warner reduction transmissions 225 hp. New port engine, only 9 hrs. New starboard base engine, only 45 hrs. $4200 for the pair. Won't last! Jeff, Eves: 914-946-7871.

WANTED: Boats, motors & trailers for resale. Brokerage & surveys done. Call PALMER MARINE, 516-623-2972.

MERCRUISER—1 pr. 454 4 bolt mains 350 hp. Compl. rebuilt 0 hrs. Short blocks only. Over $4500 invested. $2200 for pair. 422-1444.

1983 DUSKY 25' Cuddy Cabin, center console w/Tee-Top. Crusader 270 hp FWC. Outriggers, bait well, VHF, Halon, depthometer, sniffer, CB. SW washdown. Rigged for offshore fishing. $25,000. 516-728-3890. 201-664-8321.

28' 79-80 BERTRAM Sportfisherman, twin 228 Mercruiser, FWC. 690 hr. Fight chair, outriggers, radar, Loran, VHF, Sea water temp, depth recorder, gas sniffer. New AM/FM tape deck, trim tabs, refg 110-12 V. New spare SS gas tank, 70 gal. New FW pressure sys. Swim plat., new full winter cover. Spare props & parts. Mint cond. $49,850. Bus: 201-933-2042. After 6PM NJ home: 201-933-8076. LI Home: 516-725-1446.

82 CHAPARRAL 214V, cuddy, 225 Merc O/B, DF, CB. Full instruments. Compass, stereo/cassette. Full covers, winter cover, live bait well, SW Washdown, all cushions, dual batt., water separator. Downriggers, 82 Shoreline trailer & power winch. Extras. Mint cond. Low hrs. $15,000. 516-543-5620

1971 SLICKCRAFT cuddy 23', 1980 new OMC 225 hp I/O. Compl. camper top encl. Radio, depth finder. New interior, new tandem galv. trailer. Must See it. Low hrs. $7000. 718-474-7074.

19' 1975 Alindale Open fiberglass skiff. Terrific buy. Must sell. $850. Eves: 718-470-0473.

EXPERIENCED SPORTFISHING BOATS
37' 1963 Egg Harbor, repowered-$29,000
31' 1966 Bertram tower, 440 Chevy-$40,000
30' 1970 Cuttyhunk T/T Dsl-$20,000
28' 1983 Topaz Dsl-$69,000
27' 1981 Sportcraft F/B Dsl-$32,000
26' 1972 Blue Fin Dsl-$25,000
23' 1981 Mako CC, 235 hp O/B-$17,500
23' 1977 Black Fin I/B 220 hp-$17,000
20' 1976 Boston Whaler, 200 hp-$13,900
17' 1974 Mako CC, 70 hp O/B-$4000

USED ENGINES
Pair 470 185 hp Cummins, 0 hrs-$7500
Pair 454 330 hp Mercs. Take outs-$1500
Pair 4 cyl. Dsl Fords. Ideal for work boat-$1000
1 Westerbeke 7.7 kw Gen-used-$2500
1 Perkin, 4.108 w/Lima 15 kw rebuilt-$4900
Also dealers for Egg Harbor & Topaz. MONTAUK MARINE BASIN INC., W. Lake Dr., Montauk, NY 11954. 516-668-5900.

BOATING EQUIP.

FIBERGLASS Fish Box. 84'' w/bait well. Teak top & rod holders on front. Excl. cond. New $1900. Sacrifice $635. Ask for Tony: 914-948-7349, M-F 9-5.

Fighting chairs for all size boats starting at $472, as shown. With footrest starting at $1200. 516-544-0705.

MORROW & II Morrow Service. Used Lorans bought & sold. MARINE TECH SERVICE, 617-838-2709.

1978 SHORELINE EZ Roller trailer, galv. 2670 max weight. Like new. Used twice each season. $700. 516-488-6535.

ATTENTION MERCRUISER OWNERS
Rebuilt power trim cylinders $70 w/exchange. Trim cylinder insulators. Hydraulic trim hoses, O/D mounting gaskets, water pumps, gimbal bearings, fuel filters & more. ROSATO MARINE, Copiague, NY, 516-842-2030.

100 lb. Anchor, 25' chain, 12''x18'' Float $125. SS Prop, Johnson I/O 14x15 #172491 - $195. 516-979-9684.

LEE 25' Outriggers, 8' flybridge release holders, double spreaders. Ready to go. $1,100. 516-922-9441.

MARINE ELECTRONICS: Specials. 60 channel VHF w/antenna/mount $199. CB radio with antenna/mount $85. Ray Jeff ''Graduate'' $289 complete. Diversified. Sales Unlimited. 516-361-6899.

5,000 lb. Shoreline galv. trailer 24', 912C power winch. Less than 100 miles. $2250. 7½ hp OB bracket, new. $60. Days: 914-761-0150. Wknds: 516-728-2712.

RARITAN Electric head w/Mansfield TDX sanitation device. 12 volts. Never used. $495. GENE GIFFORDS, 582-4566. 8-5.

WANTED: Used fighting chair w/footboard. 516-931-7180; 668-3821; 931-7180.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., Inc., 1121-16 Lincoln Av, Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 718-426-7039.

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RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS INC., 377 Woodcleft Av, Freeport, NY; 516-623-4421.

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT. Halon gas fire extinguishers. Coast Guard & UL approved. The most effective fire fighter avail. today. Aerosol, w/10-yr. guarantee. If you've never seen Halon work, call for more info & Demo. Jimmy Hayes, Bus: 516-627-5910. Res: 516-248-3899.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

BOAT TRAILERS: EZ Loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate Del. Priced right. Trailer hitches installed. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY. 516-676-5313.

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SI-TEX/KODEN Model 787, dual auto. Loran C receiver. Brand new; never used. Still in factory packed carton. Best offer over $550. 516-764-5368.

BOAT SEATS—back to back, lay down & swivel. Low, low prices. Call for quote. BUSTER'S MARINE SVC., 718-945-4377.

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ANTIQUE AB BRADLEY Bamboo Fishing Rod & Accessories. HL Leonard case. 516-421-3472.

MUSTAD HOOKS & Other Fine Tackle at sensible prices. Free catalog. TERMINAL TACKLE CO., Box 427, Kings Park, NY 11754.

CATCH MORE FISH—with superior designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032.

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Tangle-free, tandem tied w/special stand-off knot. Used by sharpies. Sprout hooks for more hook-ups. 3/$3.75, incl. p/h. BILL SMITH, 158 Vermont Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706.

VERY EXPENSIVE—Very Expensive—Very Expensive. Edelman's is NOT very expensive. See ad on page 2.

FLOUNDER FISHERMEN!
New—unique, hand-tied flounder rigs. Guaranteed no tangles! Special new design. The Mona Lisa of flounder rigs. 3/$4 to: R. METZGER, 76 Maplewood Ave., Selden, NY 11784. Hurry—are selling like hotcakes!

Penn 12/0 & 14/0 width line. Excl. cond. $275. 914-769-7107.

2 80-lb. Daiwa rods w/90H Reels & 1 custom 80 lb. bent butt w/Penn 10/0 reel. All excl. cond. $450 all. 422-1444.

MISCELLANEOUS

WALK-IN FREEZER. Inside dimensions 3' 6"X 5' 6" x 7' 6". $1125. GENE HOLLAND, 516-728-3344.

WANTED: Fishermen to share expenses. Boat at Montauk. Cod, flounder, weaks, porgies. Eves: 516-671-7690.

MARINA LEASE FOR SALE with all necessary boats & equipment. Opens in 4 weeks. Reasonable price w/possible terms. LARRY, 718-767-7800.

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WEEKENDER Camper 8½' Slide-in 3-way refrigerator, heater, 3-burner stove, Porta-Potti. Very clean; no kids. $950. 516-979-9684.

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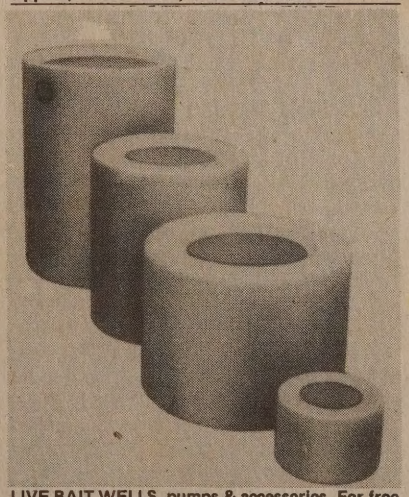

LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

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OWNERS OF SELF-BAILING BOATS
Install new bailing tubes w/professional results. My Hi-Tech Flaring tool will do the job quick & easy. Standard tool, all stainless steel; 5-yr. guarantee; 1" diam. tubes. Other diam. & forms avail. Specify your needs. Send $29.95 to: JOHN RICCI, P.O. Box 105, Palisades Park, NJ 07650.

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